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CONFIDENTIAL.

(9447.)

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PART 39.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF MOROCCO.

October to December 1908.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

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CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Morocco.

PART 39.

[33459] No. 1.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. White.

(No. 36.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, October* 3, 1908.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 231, I consider that if Raisuli advances any money to Moorish Government, the refund to His Majesty's Government of the amount which they paid for Kaïd Maclean's ransom shall be a first charge thereon. You will remember that Moorish Government promised to make this refund.

[34382] No. 2.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received October* 5.)

(No. 238.)
Sir, *Tangier, September* 25, 1908.

THE Proclamation of Mulai Hafid in nearly all other parts of Morocco has reacted on the Riff, many of the tribes of which have now also proclaimed him, and have thrown off their allegiance to the original Pretender, Bu Hamara, whose position is becoming precarious. His forces suffered a severe defeat a short time since at the hands of dissident Riffs, and it is not unlikely that his position may before long become untenable, when he would probably take refuge in Spanish territory.

The question will then arise of the validity of the Concessions in regard to mining rights in the neighbourhood of Melilla, granted by the Pretender to a Spanish Syndicate, of which the President is M. Villanueva, late Minister of Marine, and the Vice-President the Duke de las Torres. A considerable amount of capital has been engaged in this enterprise, as besides the large sum paid to the Pretender for the Concession expenses have been incurred on various works, including, it is said, a light railway to the mines.

In addition to these mines, land has, I understand, been purchased and other Concessions obtained in regard to mining rights in the districts lying between Cabo Tres Forcas and Cabo de Agua, or Cap de L'eau, which was occupied by the Spaniards in the spring, as reported in my despatch No. 68 of the 14th March last.

The whole of this district is believed to be rich in minerals, lead, and copper, as well as iron, and is, perhaps not unnaturally, looked upon by Spaniards as specially reserved for them. I understand, however, that Mulai Hafid is not likely to recognize any Concessions that may have been granted by the Pretender, and will claim that mining rights in this district as elsewhere should be conceded only in accordance with the Shereefian Firman to be drawn up under Article 112 of the Algeciras Act. Cid-el-Menebhi told me that in a recent conversation with the Spanish Minister, he informed him that the Concessions granted to Spanish Syndicates by the Pretender were not valid, and could not be recognized by Mulai Hafid, and that M. Merry del Val had not contested this, but merely replied that he would communicate with his Government on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

[34384] No. 3.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received October* 5.)

(No. 240.)

Sir, *Tangier, September* 26, 1908.

THE French Minister has spoken to me of an incident which has occurred at Casa Blanca, which may give rise to an unpleasant question. A German deserter from the Foreign Legion was on board a lighter being escorted to a German steamer by a clerk and a cavass of the German Consulate, when the lighter was driven on shore by the waves. The deserter was thereupon arrested by a French Captain and conducted to prison, though not until a slight disturbance had occurred, the cavass having threatened the Captain with his stick, but being prevented from striking by the soldiers of the Captain. The clerk of the German Consulate protested at the time against the arrest, and the protest was renewed by the German Consul when the incident was reported to him; the deserter, however, was detained in custody by the French authorities.

Baron von Wangenheim called upon M. Regnault, and protested against the arrest on the grounds that it was an acknowledged rule that deserters could not be arrested outside the country from whose service they had deserted, that in Morocco Germans are solely under German jurisdiction, and were, from a legal point of view, on German territory, and therefore if they chose to desert from the Foreign Legion they were free to do so without being liable to arrest by the French authorities. He added that he was bound to protect all Germans in this country, and that his Legation had instructions from Berlin to assist Germans in the Foreign Legion in deserting.

M. Regnault, in reply, stated that the French authorities had made no attempt to interfere with German deserters found outside the zone in French occupation, but that within that zone they had every right to arrest deserters and to prevent their escape. It could not be admitted that, during the progress of military operations, whilst a specified district was under occupation, the soldiers of the Foreign Legion were to be free to desert without interference on the part of their officers. These men had voluntarily entered into a contract which they were bound to fulfil, and were not in the same position as ordinary French or German soldiers who might desert across the frontier to Germany or France as the case might be.

The question was left there, and remains for discussion at Paris and Berlin. M. Regnault, however, expressed to me some uneasiness, as the Germans appeared lately to be endeavouring to create an incident in Morocco. He informed me that Baron von Wangenheim speaks very openly of German policy as being opposed to any degree of French preponderance. Thus, on one occasion he had stated that Germany had no special affection for Mulai Hafid, but had merely supported him as the Sultan Mulai Abdel Aziz had thrown himself into the arms of the French. If Mulai Hafid, when recognized as Sultan, should do the same, Germany would "invent another Sultan." On another occasion, when criticizing the police, he observed that if they interfered with German subjects, German sailors would be landed from a man-of-war for their protection. M. Regnault is personally on very good terms with Baron von Wangenheim, who is always perfectly correct in his manner and language when discussing any matter on which they may not be in agreement. He is, however, somewhat perturbed at the language held by him even to journalists, which can scarcely be ascribed merely to indiscretion, as he is not an inexperienced young Chargé d'Affaires, and German officials are not apt to be so indiscreet. It will be remembered that M. von Kühlmann, German Chargé d'Affaires at the time of the German Emperor's visit, had for some time before been using language which was put down to his indiscretion, but which proved to have been held under instructions from Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

P.S. *September* 27.—I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch I have just received from His Majesty's Consul at Casa Blanca, giving fuller particulars in regard to this incident than were in the possession of M. Regnault when he spoke to me, as he had then merely received a report by radiogram.

Dr. Verdon, who came to Tangier in the "Cintra," informs me that there were no deserters on board, but that the Captain told him he had taken sixteen of them on his last voyage.

H. E. W.

Inclosure in No. 3.

Consul Madden to Mr White.

(No. 252.)

Sir, *Casa Blanca, September* 25, 1908.

AN unfortunate incident occurred at the waterport here this morning. Five German deserters from the French Foreign Legion, dressed in mufti, had embarked in a small boat, accompanied by Herr Just, German Consular Secretary, and were in the act of rowing off to the German steam-ship "Cintra," when the boat was capsized by a heavy sea, and all the occupants were thrown into the muddy water near the shore. The French officer at the port, having previously recognized the men as deserters, had, I am told, signalled to the guard-ship to intercept the boat. He, however, had the men arrested there and then, in spite of the protests of Herr Just, who claimed them as German subjects. In the *bagarre* which took place the port gate was shut, and the German Consulate soldier, who was present also, was knocked down by French sailors, and was handcuffed and arrested. On the representation of another official from the German Consulate, he was released afterwards; but the deserters were marched off handcuffed under arrest.

It is said that sixteen more deserters had previously reached the "Cintra" safely.

The French case is that they have the right to arrest deserters from their army who have voluntarily engaged themselves to serve in it. The German case seems to be that being German subjects on Moorish soil the men are under the jurisdiction of the German Consul, who must assist them if they apply to him to do so.

The affair has caused much comment and feeling here. It certainly seems regrettable that the German Consulate should mix itself up at all in such matters.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. M. MADDEN.

[34386] No. 4.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received October* 5.)

(No. 242.)

Sir, *Tangier, September* 27, 1908.

I UNDERSTAND from Dr. Verdon, who has just returned from Casa Blanca, that the Sultan is becoming somewhat uneasy at no reply having yet been received from Mulai Hafid in regard to the proposed terms of settlement between them, which His Majesty has himself already accepted. The terms have, however, not yet been communicated in detail to Mulai Hafid, as Cid-el-Menebhi considered it preferable to communicate them personally in order to overcome any unwillingness on the part of Mulai Hafid to agree to any of the terms. On the other hand, Cid-el-Menebhi has not yet started for Fez, as he is awaiting Mulai Hafid's reply to his letter saying that he was coming. This delay is somewhat unfortunate as it is desirable that the terms should be finally settled before Mulai Hafid is recognized by the Powers, and before he is proclaimed at Casa Blanca, where the natives are anxious to proclaim him, and have only been prevented, it is said, by the vigilance of the French.

In the meantime an abstract of the terms has been communicated to Mulai Hafid, and Cid-ben-Ghabrit, the Algerian interpreter of the French Legation, who has gone to Fez has taken with him the text, so that, should Mulai Hafid open the subject with him, he will communicate the full terms to him and endeavour to obtain their acceptance.

Mulai Hafid, it appears, makes a great point of his deposed brother visiting him at once at Fez, where he assures him he will be well received. Mulai Abdelaziz, however, naturally declines to accept this invitation, not being willing to trust himself in Mulai Hafid's hands lest he should experience the same treatment as he himself extended to his other brother Sidi Mohammed, who has been practically a prisoner for several years past. Even if Mulai Hafid's invitation is given in good faith, it would be very humiliating for Mulai Abdelaziz to return at once to Fez as the subject of his brother.

It is unfortunate that the Sultan, listening even now to bad advice, has lately been transferring Government property at Casa Blanca to his late Court officials and favourites, or selling it to others. The validity of these gifts and sales can with difficulty be maintained under the circumstances, especially as Government properties

at Casa Blanca were mortgaged for the German loan. The French authorities have now, I understand, put a stop to these sales.

At one time, finding his own position hopeless, the Sultan entertained the idea of setting his brother Sidi Mohammed free and sending him to Marrakesh as his Viceroy. He was, however, persuaded to abandon this idea. It is possible, however, that some such plan is again in his mind, as the French Minister showed me a radiogram he had received from his Vice-Consul at Rabat stating that letters had been received at that place from Sidi Mohammed announcing his accession to the throne and ordering the formation of an army at Tamara where he would join them. M. Regnault told me that Sidi Mohammed was under strict guard at Casa Blanca, and the Sultan has been told to keep him there and prevent him making a bid for the throne. Sidi Mohammed would be a very reactionary Sultan, and is much less desirable than Hafid. He is, however, much beloved throughout the country, though believed to be wanting in intellect, and were he to come forward as Pretender he would obtain a large following.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

[34387] No. 5.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received October* 5.)

(No. 242.)
Sir, *Tangier, September* 29, 1908.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 240 of the 26th instant, in regard to the attempt of the German Consulate at Casa Blanca to embark deserters from the "Légion Étrangère," I have the honour to report that the French Minister informs me that in the official account of the incident received by Admiral Berryer, it is stated that the German Consul issued an embarkation order for five deserters, of whom only three were Germans, the other two being a Russian and an Austrian.

It seems that the Moorish sailors refused to row the boat, which was driven on shore and upset, the deserters being arrested on wading to the shore. The altercation was more serious than at first reported; blows were exchanged, and the German cavass was arrested and bound, but was released at the demand of an official from the German Consulate. In the heat of the altercation the adjutant of the French captain drew a small revolver and threatened the German Consular clerk.

Mr. Consul Madden informs me that it is alleged at Casa Blanca that some 200 deserters from the Foreign Legion, Germans, Austrians, and others have been shipped through the medium of the German Consulate or German merchants since the occupation began; it is natural therefore that the French military authorities should have determined to take action in the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

[34273] No. 6.

Sir F. Lascelles to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received October* 5.)

(No. 434. Confidential.)
Sir, *Berlin, September* 30, 1908.

HERR STEMRICH informed me yesterday that he had been much gratified by the way in which the German reply to the Franco-Spanish note on the subject of the recognition of Mulai Hafid as Sultan of Morocco had been received in Paris, and he did not anticipate any difficulty in coming to an understanding on the subject upon which both Governments were agreed in principle. The recent incident at Casa Blanca, in connection with the arrest by French gendarmes of deserters from the Foreign Legion who were under the protection of the German Consulate, was no doubt a very unpleasant one, but both Governments had the sincere desire to settle it amicably, and he did not think there would be much difficulty in doing so.

I observed that it was somewhat of a surprise to me that the German Government, who I understood looked upon desertion from military duty as a crime, should seek to protect even their own subjects from its consequences, to which Herr Stemrich replied that the German Government were bound to protect their subjects, but that they could not be expected to have much sympathy with such of them who chose to take service in the French army.

My French colleague believes that this question will not lead to any complications. He is under the impression that the German Government feel that their Agents in Morocco have been in the wrong, and it was significant that, although only three of the six deserters arrested by the gendarmes were of German nationality, no complaint had yet reached the French authorities from the Governments of the countries to which the three other deserters belonged.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

[35045] No. 7.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received October* 10.)

(No. 244.)
Sir, *Tangier, October* 2, 1908.

WITH reference to Sir F. Lascelles' despatch No. 415 of the 14th ultimo, of which a copy was transmitted to me, for report, in your despatch No. 153 of the 19th ultimo, I have the honour to inform you that it would appear, from what Cid-el-Menebhi has told me of the incident, that the account published in the "Times" of the action of the German Legation in connection with the imprisonment of Kaïd R'miki is substantially correct, the interpreter of the German Legation having, in his interviews with Cid-el-Menebhi, gone further than the "Kölnische Zeitung" would have one believe. This paper is also correct in stating that Kaïd R'miki's release was obtained by the French Representative at Tangier; as a matter of fact Kaïd R'miki is still in prison and the French Legation has taken no steps whatever on his behalf. The Kaïd was under French protection, but that protection was withdrawn when the report of his misdeeds reached M. Regnault.

When Kaïd R'miki and one of his nephews were brought here as prisoners, the other members of his family took refuge at the German Legation. The German Legation sent in a list showing that all the members of the Kaïd's immediate family, *i.e.*, a son, three brothers, and three nephews, were under German protection. The son and one nephew, it appears, were "Semsars" or Brokers under Article 10 of the Madrid Convention, whilst the others were "Mokhalats" or Agents under Article 9 of that Convention.

M. Maroum, the Syrian First Interpreter of the German Legation, called at once upon Cid-el-Menebhi and urged him to give orders for the release of Kaïd R'miki and his nephew. He did not claim the former as a protégé, but pressed for his release as a matter of policy, and as a return for the services he had rendered Mulai Hafid. Cid-el-Menebhi had the nephew released at once, but said he could not release the Kaïd.

The German Legation, however, did not relax its efforts to obtain the release of Kaïd R'miki; M. Maroum continually called upon Cid-el-Menebhi and pressed for his release with so much insistence and almost menace that at last Cid-el-Menebhi gave him plainly to understand that he must change his tone. On one occasion he informed Cid-el-Menebhi that letters had reached the Legation from Fez to the effect that Mulai Hafid had sent orders for the Kaïd's release and he insisted on his being immediately, then and there, set at liberty.

Cid-el-Menebhi informed me that, though he had spoken several times to Baron von Wangenheim, the latter had never himself mentioned Kaïd R'miki, and, though M. Maroum always spoke in the name of the Minister, he suspected he was really acting without instructions, being anxious to effect the Kaïd's release on account of his own personal relations with the family.

Dr. Vassel also, as reported in my despatch No. 230 of the 16th ultimo, endeavoured to persuade Mulai Hafid to issue orders for Kaïd R'miki's release. Again, more recently, he took action in the matter, accompanying the Kaïd's son when he had an audience of Mulai Hafid to make a handsome present of cash and intercede for his father's release. Mulai Hafid, however, it seems, whilst accepting the cash and assuring the son of his benevolence, gave much the same reply in regard to the father's release, namely, that he must consult Cid-el-Menebhi.

After the father's arrest, fearing that the contents of his house at Alcazar would be confiscated, his protected relatives went there and carried off everything there was in the house, alleging that the property was theirs, although they all had separate houses

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in which they lived. M. Maroum also presented to Cid-el-Menebhi a preposterous claim on behalf of the nephew who was arrested with the Kaïd. He was, however, obliged to abandon the claim on Cid-el-Menebhi pointing out that it was impossible that he should have had taken from him the things alleged.

The friendship of the German Legation for Kaïd R'miki dates, I believe, from Dr. Rosen's mission to Fez, when the Kaïd treated Dr. Rosen and the members of his mission with much courtesy. Since that date, intercourse has been maintained between Kaïd R'miki and the German Legation, and, as reported in my despatch No. 220 of the 4th ultimo, a secret correspondence was maintained between M. Maroum and the Kaïd prior to the proclamation of Mulai Hafid at Tangier. It is, in fact, not impossible that German action was to some extent responsible for his treacherous desertion of Mulai Abd-el-Aziz, though of this there is no proof, but only the inferences to be drawn from the letters in M. Maroum's writing, said to have subsequently been found in his house, urging him to be active in his support of the cause of Mulai Hafid.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

[35046] No. 8.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received October* 10.)

(No. 245.)
Sir, *Tangier, October* 3, 1908.

CID-EL-MENEBHI informs me that he has received a letter from Mulai Hafid requesting him to remain for the present at Tangier, where he considers he will be of most use, and put off coming to Fez till the French Minister visits the Court. Cid-el-Menebhi is much disappointed, and feels certain that it is jealousy on the part of those at present with Mulai Hafid that is responsible for this decision. At the Moorish Court "les absents ont toujours tort," those in favour invariably do all they can to keep their rivals from coming to the Court, and in their absence poison the mind of their Sovereign in regard to them. Cid-el-Menebhi has good cause to know this from bitter experience. When in personal contact with Mulai Abdul Aziz he always obtained a great ascendency over him, but whenever he left the Court he fell into disgrace owing to the machinations of rival officials, many of whom owed their position to him. Those now in favour with Mulai Hafid fear that, should Cid-el-Menebhi come to Fez, their influence would be gone, and they have, I understand, persuaded Mulai Hafid to keep him away by disparaging him as being too Francophil, and criticising the advice he has given on various subjects. Dr. Vassel, too, Cid-el-Menebhi thinks, is probably also in some measure responsible for Mulai Hafid's change of attitude.

Unfortunately the change of attitude is, Cid-el-Menebhi says, not only in regard to himself, but also in regard to the general policy of Mulai Hafid, who no longer seems so ready to follow the good advice tendered to him from Tangier on various matters. Thus, for instance, he has not shown himself very well disposed towards the terms of settlement with Mulai Abdul Aziz, and he has replied in an unsatisfactory manner in regard to the Franco-Spanish note, the text of which was communicated to him. His reply, too, in regard to the reassembling of the International Claims Commission at Casa Blanca has not yet been received, though expected some days ago.

Cid-el-Menebhi has now forwarded to Mulai Hafid the text of the terms of settlement which have been agreed to by Mulai Abdul Aziz, and has written an explanatory Memorandum strongly urging their acceptation. It is to be feared, however, that the action of Mulai Abdul Aziz in disposing of valuable Government properties at Casa Blanca, which, I understand, has greatly irritated Mulai Hafid, will tend to make him still less disposed to accept the terms of settlement.

Cid-el-Menebhi tells me he wrote strongly to Mulai Hafid warning him to be careful in his dealings with the Germans, and reminding him of the consequences suffered by Mulai Abdul Aziz through listening to German advice when the French, German, and English Missions were at Fez in 1905.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

[35047] No. 9.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received October* 10.)

(No. 246.)
Sir, *Tangier, October* 3, 1908.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 231 of the 16th ultimo, I have the honour to report that as Cid-el-Menebhi is not now going to Fez, Raisuli has decided not to go either, being nervous about going alone. I understand that he will send a present of money to Mulai Hafid, and that Cid-el-Menebhi will write recommending his appointment as Governor over the district mentioned in my above-mentioned despatch.

Mulai Hafid is in urgent need of funds, and would not be at all inclined to pay out again any sums he may receive. I will, however, remind Cid-el-Menebhi that the money paid for Kaïd Sir H. Maclean's ransom was advanced by His Majesty's Government on account of the Makhzen to be repaid as soon as possible, and that any sum paid by Raisuli to Mulai Hafid should be remitted to this Legation as a partial refund of the 20,000*l.* advanced.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

[35049] No. 10.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received October* 10.)

(No. 248.)
Sir, *Tangier, October* 4, 1908.

NO further discussions have taken place in regard to the deserters' incident at Casa Blanca between the French and German Ministers. M. Regnault tells me that General d'Amade is holding an exhaustive inquiry into the case, and will communicate the full particulars to his Government, when the matter will probably be discussed between the two Governments direct and not between the Legations here.

M. Regnault stated that it was clear that the German cavass struck the first blow, and that the German Consul gave a pass for the six persons accompanying M. Just, the clerk of the Consulate, *i.e.*, for an Austrian, a Swiss, and a Russian Pole, as well as three Germans. He showed me a copy of the pass, the original of which is in General d'Amade's possession. Only five deserters, however, accompanied M. Just when he first went to the water port, the sixth appeared later. It is difficult to explain the action of the German Consul, M. Luderitz, in this matter, as he has hitherto behaved with tact and comparative moderation, considering the difficult position he occupies, and has maintained friendly personal relations with the French officials. M. Regnault thinks that M. Luderitz' hand was forced by M. Just, a newly-arrived official who is a very active supporter of the anti-French party, and by M. Ficke, a German merchant and newspaper correspondent, agent of the German Morocco Committee, who has been a thorn in the side of the French officials since the occupation of Shawia. M. Regnault believes that the German Consular officials at Casa Blanca dare not oppose M. Ficke for fear of his complaining of them to his influential Committee.

M. Ficke, it appears, has been carrying on a regular desertion propaganda among the soldiers of the Foreign Legion, and has assisted them in escaping by providing them with clothes and harbouring them on his premises until they could be embarked on a steamer. The desertions from the Foreign Legion have therefore been numerous—217 up to date. It was in view of this that General d'Amade determined to adopt measures to put a stop to further desertions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

[35420] No. 11.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received October* 13.)

(No. 397.)
Sir, *Paris, October* 10, 1908.

A CONGRESS, called the "Congress on North Africa," has recently been sitting in Paris. It is the outcome of a suggestion made at the Colonial Congress held at Marseilles two years ago that annual Congresses should be held in Paris for the

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examination of various questions interesting French colonial expansion. The programme of the work of the present Congress, which is the first of its kind, was drawn up under the direction of, among others, Prince d'Arenberg, MM. Deschanel, Étienne, Hanotaux, René Millet, and Leroy-Beaulieu. One of the sections of the Congress was devoted to Morocco, and the reporter for this section was M. André Tardieu, the foreign editor of the "Temps," who writes in that paper under the pseudonym "Georges Villiers."

On the last day of the Congress M. Tardieu read a paper on Morocco, and on the policy which he considered France should now pursue, which was one of energetic pacific penetration from Algeria. He further indicated that the Government should take advantage of the "general crisis" in Europe and the negotiations proceeding between the various Powers, with a view to obtaining their adhesion to the French programme of legitimate influence in Morocco. M. Tardieu's remarks are reported to have been received with marked approval by those present.

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of Resolutions with regard to Morocco, which were adopted unanimously. The desire was therein expressed that France should bear in mind that the Act of Algeciras, which contains the chief restrictions on French policy, was only concluded for five years, and would come to an end in April 1911.

It was further urged that, though the policy of pacific penetration did not demand such financial sacrifices as a policy of conquest would entail, yet greater sacrifices in pursuit of the former ought henceforth to be made than during the past four years. The French Government should endeavour to obtain the adhesion of the various Powers to a programme of French policy with regard to Morocco conceived in similar terms to that to which England gave her consent in the Agreement of the 8th April, 1904. It was represented that French interests in Morocco should not be forgotten by French diplomacy in the course of any negotiations arising out of the Eastern question.

The views expressed at the Congress are those held by the party advocating a forward policy in Morocco which has frequently in the course of the past year put pressure on M. Clemenceau's Government to abandon the prudent line adopted by them and sanctioned by successive votes of the Chamber. It is hoped in the quarters where these views prevail that the restrictions placed on French policy by the Act of Algeciras may by some means or other be removed, and the *status quo ante* be regained. I had the honour in my despatch No. 41 of the 25th January last to report to you the defence made by M. Delcassé of his policy with regard to Morocco. He had endeavoured, he said, to obtain for France by frank negotiations with the other Mediterranean Powers the recognition of her special position in Morocco, and he declared that in 1904 France was mistress of the situation and free to accelerate or modify her action as circumstances might permit.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS BERTIE.

Inclosure in No. 11.

Extract from the "Temps" of October 12, 1908.

LA QUESTION DU MAROC.

LA dernière journée du Congrès de l'Afrique du Nord n'a pas été la moins intéressante; on y a discuté longuement les questions Marocaines. M. Guillain, ancien Ministre des Colonies, Président du Comité du Maroc, dirigeait les débats.

M. Guiot, Ministre Plénipotentiaire, Administrateur de la Banque tat, a donnéÉ des renseignements tout à fait précis sur le fonctionnement de cette banque et sur les Douanes Marocaines, et M. Michaux-Bellaire a lu un rapport documenté sur le système d'impôts le mieux approprié au Maroc.

M. André Tardieu avait été chargé du rapport sur la politique Marocaine. Il en soumit les conclusions au Congrès dans une Conférence qui obtint le succès le plus flatteur.

La politique de la France au Maroc doit être la politique de pénétration pacifique. Pourquoi n'a-t-elle pas réussi? M. André Tardieu a montré les causes de cet échec dans un lumineux exposé de l'action diplomatique depuis 1903. Passant à la période d'action, inaugurée par le bombardement de Casa-Blanca, le conférencier souligne les fautes commises. "Et cependant," ajoute-t-il, "rien n'est perdu. Nous sommes ramenés malgré tout à la vérité Algérienne; nous avons abordé le Maroc par tous les bouts, nous

nous souvenons aujourd'hui que nous sommes les maîtres de l'Algérie; c'est par la frontière Oranaise que nous devons poursuivre la politique de pénétration pacifique." M. André Tardieu dit que ce sera l'œuvre du Général Lyautey, qui a déjà rétabli, de façon si éclatante, notre prestige chez les tribus Marocaines voisines.

Le conférencier termine par une allusion aux circonstances actuelles. C'est le moment pour notre diplomatie de se souvenir que nous avons une politique au Maroc; dans cette crise générale de la politique Européenne, il faut demander au Gouvernement de profiter des conversations qui vont s'engager entre les Puissances pour obtenir leur adhésion à notre programme d'influence légitime au Maroc.

M. René Millet s'associe aux paroles du conférencier.

A l'unanimité, on adopte les vœux suivants:—

"Le Congrès de l'Afrique du Nord émet les vœux:

"1. Que la France, tout en tenant compte des restrictions diverses apportées par les circonstances, depuis quatre ans, à sa politique Marocaine, ne perde pas de vue que l'Acte d'Algésiras, où se sont inscrites les principales de ces restrictions, n'a été conclu que pour cinq ans et prendra fin en Avril 1911, c'est-à-dire dans deux ans. Examiner, par conséquent, dès maintenant, quelle devra être la politique Française à l'égard des clauses de cet Acte devenues caduques à cette date.

"2. Que tout en restant invariablement attachée à la politique de pénétration pacifique définie par les trois principes de l'intégrité du Maroc, de la souveraineté du Sultan, et de la liberté commerciale, la France se rende compte que cette politique ne la dispense pas de faire pour le Maroc des sacrifices financiers, sensiblement inférieurs à ceux qu'aurait exigés une politique de conquête, mais supérieurs, cependant, à ceux qui ont été consentis depuis quatre ans. Donner en conséquence à la pénétration pacifique un budget suffisant, dont la Légation de France à Tanger d'une part, le Haut Commissaire sur la frontière Algérienne d'autre part devraient pouvoir, sous le contrôle du Gouvernement, disposer dans la forme qui leur semblerait la meilleure.

"3. Que la presse et les associations compétentes ne négligent pas, en vue des éventualités futures, de rendre chaque jour plus claire, pour l'opinion Française, la nécessité d'une politique Marocaine (articles de journaux et de revues, Conférences, &c.).

"4. Que le Gouvernement, sans perdre de vue les conditions générales de la politique Française, sans oublier que cette politique est d'abord une politique Européenne et que l'action coloniale n'est possible qu'autant que l'état de notre armée, de nos alliances, et de nos amitiés assure l'équilibre de l'Europe, envisage les modalités par lesquelles serait possible un accord avec les diverses Puissances ayant pour objet d'obtenir leur adhésion au programme Français conçue dans des termes analogues à ceux qui ont enregistré l'adhésion de l'Angleterre le 8 Avril, 1904.

"Que le Gouvernement tienne compte, dans les négociations dont l'Orient peut être l'occasion, des principes directeurs et des intérêts permanents de notre politique Marocaine."

Avant de se séparer, le Congrès vote une adresse de sympathie au Ministre de France à Tanger, à ses collaborateurs, et aux ressortissants Français.

Le soir, un banquet a réuni les congressistes à l'Hôtel Continental; M. René Millet présidait, M. Jonnart, Gouverneur-Général de l'Algérie, empêché, n'ayant pu venir. Des toasts ont été prononcés par MM. Millet, Marchal, au nom des Délégués Algériens, de Carnières, au nom des Délégués Tunisiens, et Zaouche, au nom des Délégués indigènes.

[35662] No. 12.

Kaïd Sir H. Maclean to Mr. Lister.—(Received October 14.)

"*Charleville,*" *Kew, Surrey, October* 10, 1908.

Dear Lister,

I WAS told very privately last night that Mulai Hafid has received a loan from Ashmead-Bartlett, and that Ashmead-Bartlett is trying to negotiate a big loan in the City for Mulai Hafid with Gubbins and Co., London Wall. Ashmead-Bartlett told my informant that he had worked the show for Mulai Hafid; that they had a lot of money now in Morocco and did not mean to lose it.

I think the above will interest you.

I hope you received my last letter. I am anxious to do nothing that would in any

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way annoy the Foreign Office. If there is any chance of my obtaining a Government appointment I could tell the Sultan I could not go, as I hoped to obtain an appointment.

Yours very sincerely,
(Signed) HARRY MACLEAN.

P.S.—If necessary, I will give you privately the name of my informant. A man called C. Roscher is in Tangier. I was told he should be watched.

H. M.

[35662] No. 13.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. White.

(No. 166. Confidential.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 15, 1908.

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your confidential information, copy of a letter from Kaïd Sir H. Maclean to Mr. Reginald Lister reporting that Mr. Ashmead-Bartlett is at present endeavouring to negotiate in the City a considerable loan on behalf of Mulai Hafid.* This loan is doubtless connected with the Mining Concession recently obtained by Mr. Ashmead-Bartlett, as reported in your despatch No. 215 of the 27th August last.

I transmit further a copy of the contract actually concluded with Mulai Hafid by this gentleman, which he communicated to Sir C. Hardinge, together with Minutes and correspondence on the subject,† from which you will see how the matter stands at present.

With reference to the postscript to Sir H. Maclean's letter, I shall be glad of any information you may be able to obtain in regard to C. Roscher.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. GREY.

[35791] No. 14.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received October 16.)

(No. 404.)

Sir, *Paris, October* 15, 1908.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith an interesting account published by M. de Maigière in the "Journal" of to-day's date of an audience with Mulai Hafid at Fez.‡

Mulai Hafid declared that France had only spoken to him by the voice of her guns; she had aided his brother against him and shown herself to be his enemy. He would accept the Algeciras Act but would not suffer any interpretation of it, which went against the spirit of the agreement. France and Spain had been charged with specified duties only; he would not allow that, under pretext of police, foreign troops should occupy his territory. An attempt was being made to transform a limited and special mandate into one of "general surveillance" exercised over his kingdom.

Mulai Hafid remarked also that the German answer to the Franco-Spanish note was perfectly correct in the observations made with regard to the Holy War, and he proceeded to make some interesting and original remarks on the subject of the similarity between proclaiming a Holy War in Morocco and issuing orders for a mobilization in Europe. He had never declared a Holy War in the sense which was attached to this expression by Europeans. He had no idea of placing himself at the head of a fanatical movement directed against all Europeans in general.

He expressed anxiety as to the territorial ambitions of France, and complained that France had not sent him any Envoy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS BERTIE.

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* No. 12. † See Part 38, Nos. 95 and 113. ‡ Not printed.

[35908] No. 15.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 249.)

Sir, *Tangier, October* 7, 1908.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 248 of the 4th instant, I have the honour to report that, having occasion to see the French Minister this morning, he reverted again to the Casa Blanca incident, giving me the photographic copy inclosed herewith* of the pass issued by the German Consul for the six deserters, and reading to me the statements of some of the persons who had given evidence at the inquiry instituted by General d'Amade.

The principal facts brought out by this evidence were as follows:—

The first blow was struck by M. Just, who hit the French sailors with his cane, the broken cane being in the possession of the French authorities. The German cavass was not interfered with until be struck the sailors who pursued and arrested one of the deserters who attempted to escape. His hands were tied behind his back, as he was a powerful man and could not be restrained otherwise. The young French officer who drew a pocket revolver declared that he did so in self-defence, seeing an infuriated man coming at him with uplifted arm and not wishing to come to blows with him. He states he did not know this man was a German official, as he was in a dishevelled condition after his immersion in the muddy water by the upsetting of the boat.

The Austrian and Swiss deserters declared that they were induced to desert when they had no idea of doing so, the Austrian stating that he was practically kept a prisoner by the Austrian Vice-Consul, who is a German merchant, from the day on which he agreed to desert until the ship arrived and he went down to the beach accompanied by the Austrian Vice-Consul.

M. Regnault informed me that some days after the incident the Austrian Vice-Consul at Casa Blanca made a protest in regard to the incident to the French Acting Consul, by order of his Government.

Later, I was calling upon the German Minister, who also brought up the subject. He stated that an inquiry had been held by their officials, and it was clear from the evidence they had received that the French were the aggressors. He ridiculed the idea of M. Just having used any violence, describing him as a very mild little man, who would be the last person to strike any one. He denied that the German Consul had any intention of protecting the deserters, who were not of German nationality, and who were, he stated, two Austrians sent by their Vice-Consul, and a German Swiss. He states that the French authorities have also in their possession, though they have not produced it, another paper issued by M. Luderitz and shown by M. Just, where the number of Germans was given as three.

Baron von Wangenheim, whilst expressing the hope and the belief that the incident would be satisfactorily settled, exhibited a certain amount of irritation, and said his Government would have to insist on reparation being given. He thought that it might perhaps be argued that the French could arrest deserters of foreign nationality in Showia, but they certainly could not in the town of Casa Blanca, which is not in military occupation nor the field of military operations, but under the French and Spanish police. He added that in any case the action of the French was inexplicable, as desertions had been going on for some time, and the subject had been spoken of between the two Legations; if the French thought they were entitled to arrest the deserters, they should have first discussed the matter here and come to an agreement, instead of taking the law into their own hands and thus giving rise to this regrettable incident.

If, as it would appear, the evidence collected at the inquiry held by the German authorities conflicts on the main points with that obtained by the French, an awkward situation may arise, especially if the views expressed by Baron von Wangenheim are those of his Government. It is quite possible, however, that Baron von Wangenheim's assumption of a somewhat uncompromising attitude is in the nature of bluff, as he would reckon on his language reaching M. Regnault, especially as I understand he has used somewhat similar language to a French journalist here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

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* Not reproduced

[35910] No. 16.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received October* 17.)

(No. 251.)

Sir, *Tangier, October* 10, 1908.

THE French Minister informs me that he has received a letter from M. Belghabrit, the Algerian interpreter of the Legation, who went to Fez to relieve the official in charge of the French Consulate and post office, reporting two interviews he had with Mulai Hafid.

M. Belghabrit is not favourably impressed with the result of these interviews or with the state of affairs generally at Fez. He anticipates that considerable difficulty will be experienced in dealing with Mulai Hafid, whose attitude towards the French has lately undergone a considerable change. Thus in regard to the settlement with Mulai Abdel Aziz, whereas he originally gave M. Regnault to understand that he left the matter entirely in his hands and would agree to any terms he suggested, he now raises objections to all the terms agreed upon, observing that the yearly allowance is too high, that he cannot agree to Mulai Abdel Aziz retaining half the jewellery, that it would be dangerous to permit him to reside at Tangier, &c. M. Belghabrit, however, explained the position to him, and was to have a further interview with him after discussing the terms with two officials appointed for the purpose.

M. Regnault considered the present outlook unsatisfactory, and feared there would be a return to the old system with the reactionary officials. Sid-el-Menebhi now shares this view, and is ill-satisfied with the turn of affairs at Fez, where his influence has, I fear, been undermined. He informed me that he believed that Sid-ben-Said is to be associated with Sid Guebbas on the Commission for Foreign Affairs here. He was a member of the Commission some years ago, and was removed on account of the complaints made against him by several Legations. His appointment, if confirmed, will produce a bad impression, and will show that the present Makhzen is not disposed to show a conciliatory spirit in dealing with the foreign Representatives.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

[35911] No. 17.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received October* 17.)

(No. 252.)

Sir, *Tangier, October* 10, 1908.

CID-EL-MENEBHI informs me that the interpreter of the German Legation inquired of him whether he considered it would be a good idea that a large loan should be made to the Moorish Government to enable it to pay off all its obligations and remain with a sufficient balance in hand for all Government purposes, the loan to be subscribed in equal shares by all countries and guaranteed by the respective Governments, the Moorish Government giving as security the remaining 40 per cent. of the custom-house receipts and all Makhzen properties at the ports and at Fez, Mequinez, and Marakesh. Cid-el-Menebhi expressed his approval, and the interpreter then informed him that this would be done; he said he would call again and discuss the matter.

Cid-el-Menebhi told me that he did not really believe that Mulai Hafid would consent that Government properties in the interior should be given as security for a loan, and that he had merely expressed his approval of the scheme to elicit further information in regard to it.

M. Regnault informed me that he understood that Dr. Vassel had given Mulai Hafid assurances that his Government would procure a loan for him.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

[35912] No. 18.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received October* 17.)

(No. 253.)

Sir, *Tangier, October* 11, 1908.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 215 of the 27th August, I have the honour to report that Mr. Ashmead-Bartlett has returned to Tangier, accompanied by two engineers, and is proceeding to Fez to resume negotiations with Mulai Hafid in regard to the concession, the terms of which he desires to modify. I need not trouble you with the particulars of the concession as I understand that Mr. Ashmead-Bartlett has communicated to you the text of the draft contract and has had a conversation with you on the subject. Mr. Ashmead-Bartlett, I believe, is not very hopeful of obtaining the ratification of the contract in the modified form desired, as Mulai Hafid's situation is no longer what it was when the original terms were negotiated, and he will be consequently more difficult to deal with, especially as he has been strongly advised from several quarters not to sign away any concessions for the present. Moreover, Mr. Ashmead-Bartlett finds he is not in a position to fulfil the preliminary conditions of the contract by the payment of the 300,000*l.*, which was the great inducement held out to Mulai Hafid, who was in urgent need of funds.

M. Regnault tells me that it has been reported to him from Fez that the Germans are in communication with Mulai Hafid for a concession for working mines and phosphate deposits. On the other hand the Spaniards desire a confirmation of the concessions granted by the Pretender in the Riff, and also concessions for mines in the neighbourhood of Tetuan and Ceuta. There are thus several competitors in the field, and Mulai Hafid will be the more exacting in his terms.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

[36447] No. 19.

Note to be presented to Mulai Hafid by the Doyen of the Diplomatic Body.—(*Communicated by the French and Spanish Embassies, October* 19, 1908.)

LES Gouvernements signataires de l'Acte d'Algésiras ont reçu la lettre en date du 6 Septembre dernier, que Moulay Hafid leur a fait parvenir par l'intermédiaire du doyen du Corps Diplomatique à Tanger et par laquelle il annonçait qu'ayant été proclamé par tous les habitants de l'Empire du Mogreb, il demandait à être reconnu par les Puissances comme Sultan du Maroc. Il offrait en même temps de reconnaître toutes les Conventions publiques passées avec les Puissances par ses prédécesseurs et en particulier la Convention d'Algésiras, ainsi que tous les Règlements et décisions dans lesquels est intervenu le Corps Diplomatique à Tanger pour assurer l'exécution de cet Acte. Les Gouvernements des pays représentés au Maroc ont accueilli avec satisfaction la déclaration spontanée de Moulay Hafid, qui mérite leur approbation.

2. Mais, afin d'éviter à l'avenir toute interprétation erronée sur la portée de ses paroles, ils croient devoir en préciser la signification et en déduire expressément les conséquences dans l'intérêt même des rapports d'amitié et de confiance qu'ils veulent entretenir avec l'autorité souveraine de l'Empire Chérifien.

3 Ils considèrent qu'en acceptant les Traités passés par ses prédécesseurs avec les différentes Puissances, Moulay Hafid adhère à toutes les dispositions de l'Acte d'Algésiras, ainsi qu'à tous les Règlements d'application prévus par cet Acte et établis ou approuvés par le Corps Diplomatique à Tanger, aux Commissions instituées en vertu de ces Règlements, aux décisions Chérifiennes et mesures quelconques prises à ce sujet, aux engagements et obligations de tout genre résultant d'arrangements avec le Corps Diplomatique à Tanger ou de contrats réguliers avec des particuliers.

4. Moulay Hafid assume par voie de conséquence la responsabilité des dettes contractées par Abdul Aziz jusqu'au jour où ce dernier, en vue de sa renonciation au trône, a entamé des négociations par l'intermédiaire de Menebhi. Toutefois les dettes qui auraient été souscrites au bénéfice des particuliers seront soumises à une vérification dont les conditions seront ultérieurement déterminées sur la base de l'Acte d'Algésiras.

5. Une des conditions principales du maintain de l'ordre est l'accord relatif à la police Chérifienne dans les ports et le mandat qui, avec l'approbation des autres

Puissances, a été donné temporairement à la France et à l'Espagne pour surveiller la contrebande maritime des armes. Il est entendu qu'aucune atteinte ne sera portée par l'autorité Chérifienne à ces garanties.

6. D'autre part, Abdul Aziz ayant provoqué la réunion à Casa-Blanca d'une Commission Internationale chargée de régler les indemnités dues par le Gouvernement Marocain à raison des dommages causés par les troubles survenus dans cette région, et cette mesure ayant reçu l'assentiment des Puissances qui ont envoyé leurs Délégués, il importe que la Commission reprenne dans le plus bref délai avec les mêmes attributions que précédemment ses travaux momentanément interrompus.

7. Une autre conséquence de l'acceptation des Traités est l'obligation pour le Sultan de faire le nécessaire afin d'apporter la sécurité à ses sujets et aux Colonies étrangères dans toutes les régions de l'Empire. Il convient par suite de procéder dans des conditions en harmonie avec l'Acte d'Algésiras à toutes les mesures indispensables pour garantir la sûreté et la liberté des communications, de manière à permettre l'établissement d'un Gouvernement stable, qui soit conforme à l'intérêt de tous. Il convient aussi que Moulay Hafid le fasse savoir d'une manière officielle au peuple Marocain, en lui disant en même temps que sa volonté est de maintenir avec tous les pays et leurs nationaux des relations conformes au droit des gens, ainsi que cela doit être entre pays amis et qui se respectent réciproquement.

8. Ces questions sont celles qui intéressent toutes les Puissances. Il en est d'autres qui ne concernent que certaines d'entre elles. En reconnaissant un nouveau Sultan, aucune Puissance ne renonce à son droit de poursuivre avec lui le règlement des questions qui touchent exclusivement chacune d'elles en particulier.

9. C'est ainsi que la France et l'Espagne ont déclaré qu'elles se réservaient de poursuivre directement avec le Maghzen le remboursement des dépenses qu'elles ont faites pour assurer la tranquillité dans certaines régions du Maroc au moyen d'expéditions militaires indispensables. C'est également avec le Maghzen que la France et l'Espagne, comme aussi les autres Puissances qui se trouvent actuellement dans le même cas, traiteront la question des indemnités dues pour le meurtre de leurs nationaux.

10. Si, comme les Puissances l'ont toutes compris à la lecture de la lettre de Moulay Hafid, ces explications répondent exactement à sa pensée, elles lui demandent de vouloir bien les en informer en termes exprès, afin qu'elles puissent le reconnaître comme Sultan légitime du Maroc. Elles le prient de leur transmettre cette réponse par l'intermédiaire du doyen du Corps Diplomatique à Tanger.

11. Elles ne doutent pas qu'il ne comprenne qu'il doit à son frère Abdul Aziz les moyens de mener une existence digne d'un Prince qui le touche de si près et qui a occupé le Trône Impérial de ses ancêtres. Elles espèrent aussi qu'il traitera équitablement les fonctionnaires qui ont fait partie du Maghzen d'Abdul Aziz.

[36563] No. 20.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received October 20.)

(No 66.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, October* 20, 1908.

MY despatch No. 246 of the 3rd instant.

Having received an invitation from Mulai Hafid to go to Fez, Raisuli will start the day after to-morrow for that place.

[36447] No. 21.

Sir Edward Grey to M. Cambon.[*]

Your Excellency, *Foreign Office, October* 22, 1908.

ON the 19th instant Count de Manneville was good enough to leave at this Office a copy of the note which it is proposed to address to Mulai Hafid through the dean of the Diplomatic Body at Tangier, containing the conditions which he must accept in order to bring about his recognition by the Powers as Sultan of Morocco.

I have lost no time in examining the contents of this note, and have now the

[*] Also to Marquis de Villalobar, *mutatis mutandis.*

honour to inform your Excellency that I have sent instructions to His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Tangier authorizing him to sign the note as at present drafted as soon as it is ready for presentation to Mulai Hafid.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. GREY.

[36447] No. 22.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. White.

(No. 170.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 22, 1908.

I TRANSMIT herewith copy of the note, as communicated to me by the French and Spanish Embassies on the 19th instant, which it is proposed to address to Mulai Hafid through the dean of the Diplomatic Body at Tangier containing the conditions of his recognition by the Powers as Sultan.[*]

You are authorized, when asked to do so, to sign the note as at present drafted.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. GREY.

[36892] No. 23.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received October 24.)

(No. 255.)
Sir, *Tangier, October* 14, 1908.

NEWS has been received of the death a few days since of the old Marabout Bu Amama, who, since the year 1881 until quite recently, was the indefatigable enemy of the French, continually creating trouble on the Algerian frontier.

When the Pretender Bu Hamara set up the standard of revolt against the Sultan Abd-el-Aziz, Bu Amama lent him his support, thus incurring the hostility of the Sultan, who sought to bring pressure to bear on the old Marabout by casting into prison his son, Sid Taib, who had been captured by treachery. The French, however, seized the opportunity of winning over Bu Amama by an act of generosity towards his son, whose release they demanded of the Sultan on the grounds of his Algerian origin. Sid Taib, when released, was sent to Algeria and resided at Laghouat for about a year. He was treated with consideration, and was quite won over by the French. He was with his father at Ain Sidi Mellouk at the time of his death, and now succeeds him as head of the Zouia.

The wise policy of the French will thus bear good fruit, as instead of having on the Algerian frontier a troublesome enemy, as was Bu Amama until the release of his son by the French, they will now have an influential Marabout ready to render them all the assistance he can.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

[36893] No. 24.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received October 24.)

(No. 256.)
Sir, *Tangier, October* 16, 1908.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 249 of the 7th instant, I have the honour to report that I learn from M. Regnault that the Austrian Ambassador at Paris has informed the French Government that the protest made by the Austrian Vice-Consul at Casa Blanca in regard to the arrest of the Austrian deserter from the Foreign Legion was made without the authority of his Government, which did not desire to take any notice of the incident.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

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[*] No. 19.

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[36894] No. 25.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received October 24.)

(No. 257.)

Sir, *Tangier, October* 17, 1908.

M. REGNAULT informs me that the French naval force in Moorish waters is shortly to be further reduced; the flag-ship "Kléber" is leaving with Admiral Berryer to join the Atlantic Squadron. The remaining ships will then be under the command of the Senior Captain.

M. Regnault evidently regrets the reduction of the French naval and military forces in Morocco, and considers it impolitic, but the Government apparently desire to be in a position to inform the Chambers that the reduction has been made, anticipating a good effect on public opinion at home and abroad.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

[36895] No. 26.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received October 24.)

(No. 258.)

Sir, *Tangier, October* 17, 1908.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copies of two despatches I have received from His Majesty's Consul at Casa Blanca in regard to the French troops in Shawia, and to the training of Moorish troops by the French.

With regard to the feeling towards the French amongst the natives of Shawia, I would observe that Dr. Verdon is convinced that it is only fear that holds them in check; that they are at heart animated with a great hatred of the French; and that, if the French forces are unduly reduced, there will be trouble.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 26.

Consul Madden to Mr. White.

(No. 265.)

Sir, *Casa Blanca, October* 12, 1908.

ACCORDING to information given to me by a French officer, the military authorities have already commenced the study of the formation of native "tabors," or regiments at the outposts in the Shawia. At the end of November it is proposed to raise the new troops, or "milices" as they are sometimes called, who are to be 250 strong at each post, with fifty French regular Moslem soldiers to stiffen them. Thirty Moors have so far been engaged at each post, half of whom have been sent into Casa Blanca for instruction. In all, 120 of these new Moroccan "Goum" are undergoing a military course here, and I am told that the results up to the present are hopeful: the men are considered intelligent, and are expected to equal in value the Algerian Tirailleurs. They receive 3 fr. a-day, which includes the keep of their horse. I have observed some of these men forming part of Lieutenant-General d'Amade's riding escort recently.

An officer on the staff tells me that 2,000 men will soon be sent away from here, and that it is proposed to retain in Shawia about 8,000 troops, more or less.

The Shawia is absolutely quiet, so much so that General d'Amade tells me he has not been round to the outposts for two months, but has remained at head-quarters here at Casa Blanca attending to official matters.

The six deserters, who were the cause of the recent incident, are confined in Fort Provost; they have not yet been brought up before the Council of War, but they have been interrogated. A few nights ago a German steamer arrived in the bay, and the searchlight from the French guard-ship was kept all night on the German vessel.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. M. MADDEN.

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Inclosure 2 in No. 26.

Consul Madden to Mr. White.

(No. 266.)

Sir, *Casa Blanca, October* 13, 1908.

IN conversation with one of the French military interpreters recently the officer spoke about the experiment of employing Moslem soldiers against the Shawia Arabs, and stated that the French authorities had from the outset expected good results from the "réclame," or puffing of France at the hands of their Moslem troops, an anticipation which had been fully justified. He went on to say that probably the French are in a better position to obtain advantage in this way than, for example, an army from England or Germany would have been, because the French Moslems have the very important point in their favour of being able to speak the Arabic of Morocco. The Moroccan Arabs very soon began to talk to the French soldiers, and the first question asked was about France, her power, the number of her guns, her reserves of ammunition, and the pay of the troops. On all these and similar points the French soldiers always exaggerated the greatness of France. He said that they did this from pride of their position, and the effect of this "réclame" had been excellent.

No doubt, too, the French soldiers had been given the hint necessary to this end.

The Shawia Arabs, the officer stated, divided up the French army into three divisions. First, the "Aarab del Woster" (so called from "wost" (centre) because the French Moslem troops are drawn from countries situated in the centre of North Africa), consisting of the "Tirailleurs" and "Spahis." Then, the "Nesara" or Christians, these being the Foreign Legion and the "Chasseurs d'Afrique." And, thirdly, the "Lihood" or Jews, by which name the Zouaves are known to the Moroccan Arabs. This designation, he said, is given without malice, and is due to the Arabs having been told that the men are Algerian Jews. I have had the opportunity of ascertaining from a Zouave soldier of my acquaintance that, probably, about 20 per cent. of the Zouaves are Jews, so that there seems to be reason for the name of "Lihood" given to them by the Shawia Arabs.

I am also told that the Arabs of Emdakra, who maintained such a staunch resistance to the French, are now even friendly, and some have offered to join the French army. They come to the French outpost in Emdakra, the "camp du bûcheron," and talk of their defeat at the hands of the French, taking it philosophically.

A special treatise on the Emdakra tribe and on the effect of the war against them has been drawn up by my informant at the request of the French General; and similar theses are to be compiled regarding the other tribes of the Shawia.

The Shawia Arabs are now stated to be absolutely tractable, and the French have no difficulty in dealing with them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. M. MADDEN.

[36896] No. 27.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received October 24.)

(No. 259.)

Sir, *Tangier, October* 18, 1908.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a radiogram received this day by the doyen of the Diplomatic Body from the Consular Corps at Mogador reporting a serious affray between the police and the Moorish troops sent to that port by Mulai Abdel Aziz some months ago. No further details have yet been received except, as I am informed, in a radiogram received by the French Minister, from which it would appear that the affair arose through a quarrel between a few police and soldiers, other members of the two corps joining in; the police retired to their barracks, which were attacked by the soldiers. Though the affray occurred inside the town, it is hoped that no civilians were wounded, otherwise mention would doubtless have been made of it in the radiogram.

A meeting of the Diplomatic Body is to be held to-morrow morning to discuss the matter, and it will no doubt be decided to insist on the withdrawal of the troops as demanded by the Consuls. They receive their pay irregularly, and are a source of danger to the town.

M. Regnault has during the last few days received reports from various ports

that incidents have occurred showing some excitement against the police. The fact that the police are regularly paid, whilst the soldiers are frequently left some time without receiving any payment, is calculated to excite a feeling of jealousy against them on the part of the soldiers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 27.

Radiogram communicated by the Consular Corps at Mogador to the Doyen of the Diplomatic Body.

BAGARRE très sérieuse entre le tabor Abdeselam-el-Oudii et la police; il y eut quelques morts et plusieurs blessés. Le Corps Consulaire demande à l'unanimité qu'on fasse rembarquer d'extrême urgence le tabor de la mahalla précité pour assurer la sécurité de la ville.

[36907] No. 28.

Mr. E. Grant Duff to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received October* 24.)

(No. 146.)
Sir,
Madrid, October 20, 1908.

IN my despatch No. 13 of the 17th January last I gave some account of the Beni-bu-Fruor mines lying a short distance behind Melilla, and of the interest which the Spanish Government was taking in developing the resources of this region. A Spanish Syndicate has been working the mines under the protection of the Roghi. A light railway now connects the mines with Melilla. Parallel to its runs a similar French railway for conveying ore from a neighbouring French mine to the coast. The French Ambassador at Madrid sometimes alludes, in conversation with me, to friction which exists, it appears, between the rival interests of France and Spain in the mining district.

Hitherto the Spanish engineers and foremen, numbering some fifty, had lived at Beni-bu-Fruor without molestation from the neighbouring tribes. The latter, however, have been carried away lately by the Hafidist movement. They seem to have suddenly thrown off their allegiance to the Roghi. Encouraged by the recent defeat of Filali, the Roghi's General, on the mainland opposite Alhucemas, they fell upon the little Spanish mining colony and sacked their houses. The Spaniards fled to Zelouan, the Roghi's capital, and thence, under escort, to Melilla.

These events took place about a fortnight ago. Later reports state that the Roghi has since reduced the tribes to submission by bombarding the mining village. The final attitude of the tribes, however, is still very doubtful, and the Spanish press is beginning to call serious attention to the danger of a possible defeat of the Roghi by the Hafidist forces, and to the precarious position which would thus be created for Melilla and the other Spanish Settlements on the Mar Chica and at Cabo de Aguas, opposite the Chafarina Islands.

Spanish policy on the north coast of Morocco has been generally directly towards maintaining friendly relations with the neighbouring tribes, without much consideration for the rights and claims of the legitimate Sultan. General Marina, the active and capable Governor of Melilla, had pursued this policy with considerable success. Notwithstanding the establishment of the new Spanish ports in the neighbourhood, he succeeded in keeping the Roghi on the side of Spain, and in obtaining from him an armed guard to keep order in the mines.

If a new power should now replace the authority of the Roghi it is evident that the validity of the Mining Concessions, which were granted by the Roghi, may be contested, and that the Spanish garrisons may have to take active measures to preserve their positions and prestige along the coast.

The matter was brought to the attention of the Spanish Senate on the 15th instant by Señor Buen, who inquired what steps were being taken to reinforce the garrisons and to provide them with an adequate supply of artillery, cavalry, and military stores.

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and War admitted the disturbed condition of the region behind Melilla, but said that the internecine quarrels of the tribes did not

greatly concern Spain, and that if, nevertheless, any necessity should arise for forcible intervention, ample reinforcements were ready in Spain for shipment at a few hours' notice.

I have, &c.
(For the Ambassador),
(Signed) EVELYN GRANT DUFF.

[37137] No. 29.

Mr. Bryce to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received October* 26.)

(No. 295.)
Sir,
Washington, October 15, 1908.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 283 of the 15th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a letter I have received from the Secretary of State inclosing the Memorandum which the United States' Government has drawn up in reply to an identic Memorandum received from the French and Spanish Governments with regard to the recognition of Mulai Hafid.

I have, &c.
(For Mr. Bryce),
(Signed) H. W. KENNARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 29.

Mr. Root to Mr. Bryce.

My dear Mr. Ambassador,
Washington, October 9, 1908.

REFERRING to Mr. Howard's personal communication of the 9th ultimo, I beg to inclose a copy of the Memorandum which this Government has made in reply to an identic Memorandum received from the French and Spanish Governments concerning the recognition of Mulai Hafid as Sultan of Morocco, and the guarantees which should first be obtained from the new Makhzen.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ELIHU ROOT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 29.

Memorandum respecting the recognition of Mulai Hafid as Sultan.

THE Government of the United States has taken due note of the Memorandum transmitted to the Department of State on the 14th September by the Spanish Legation at Washington, in which are set forth the views which the Governments of Spain and France entertain in accord concerning the recognition of Mulai Hafid as Sultan of Morocco, and the guarantees which should first be obtained from the new Makhzen.

The Government of the United States, having carefully considered the observations submitted by the Spanish Memorandum, as well as by a similar Memorandum from the French Government received through its Embassy at Washington, is now prepared to announce its readiness to assent to the recognition of Mulai Hafid in general terms, without undertaking to express views as to minor points of difference concerning which the directly interested Powers may not have reached an accord, but provided that substantial guarantees shall be given by Mulai Hafid of his purpose and ability to accept and discharge all Conventional obligations incurred by former Sovereigns of Morocco, as well as those of the Algeciras Act as those growing out of Treaty rights and international law, so that the interests of the United States and its citizens in Morocco shall rest on equal footing with those of other nations.

Department of State, Washington,
October 9, 1908.

[37090] No. 30.

Sir F. Lascelles to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received October* 26.)

(No. 461.)

Sir, *Berlin, October* 20, 1908.

THE "North German Gazette" of last evening announces that the French and Spanish Ambassadors in Berlin yesterday presented to Herr von Schön the draft of a note which the doyen of the Diplomatic Corps at Tangier is to present to Mulai Hafid on the subject of his recognition as Sultan of Morocco.

Meanwhile the German press, which for the last few days has been fully occupied with the discussion of the situation in the Balkans, has turned its attention now again to the Moroccan question, and especially to the recent Casa Blanca incident. The "Cologne Gazette" learns that the reports received by the French and German Governments respectively with regard to the incident of the German deserters at Casa Blanca are so much at variance that it has been proposed to submit the whole question to The Hague Court of Arbitration. The "Cologne Gazette" welcomes such a solution as a dignified and suitable way to deal with a matter about which neither country could possibly desire to go to war. At the same time it is understood that the German Government have not yet received the French official material in the case, which M. Cambon is expected to hand to Herr von Schön within the next day or two, and until this happens it is naturally impossible for the German Government to decide whether or not they will submit the question to arbitration.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

[37777] No. 31.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received October* 31.)

(No. 261.)

Sir, *Tangier, October* 22, 1908.

I HAVE the honour to report that a letter has been received by the doyen from Mulai Hafid requesting him to inform the foreign Representatives officially that he has appointed Sid Mohammed Guebbas to succeed Sid Torres as Commissioner for Foreign Affairs. This appointment was known here some time since, but the letter notifying the appointment, though dated the 4th instant, was only delivered two days ago.

Sid Abdallah-ben-Said, mentioned in the last paragraph of my despatch No. 251 of the 10th instant, has arrived at Tangier, and the Diplomatic Body will doubtless shortly be informed of his appointment as Commissioner for Foreign Affairs in conjunction with Sid Guebbas.

The French Minister informs me that Sid Guebbas, on hearing of the intended appointment of Sid-ben-Said, addressed a letter to Mulai Hafid begging that the appointment might be reconsidered, as it would be most unwelcome to the foreign Representatives. He has, however, received a letter from Mulai Hafid severely rebuking him for criticizing the appointment, which is maintained.

I have also the honour to report that Sid Guebbas has addressed the foreign Representatives a letter informing them that Sid Mohammed Abdelhadi Zniber has been appointed Minister of Finance. This official was formerly "Mohtasseb" (officer controlling the markets, prices, weights and measures, &c.) at Marakesh, and lately held the post of Moorish Delegate at the State Bank and on the Customs Commission.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

[37778] No. 32.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received October* 31.)

(No. 262.)

Sir, *Tangier, October* 23, 1908.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 244 of the 2nd instant, I have the honour to report that Kaïd-el-R'miki was released from prison on the evening of the 19th instant by order of Mulai Hafid, who had received from the Kaïd's family the sum of

50,000 dollars as the price of this favour. Mulai Hafid, in writing to Sid-el-Menebhi giving instructions for Kaïd R'miki's release, explained that he thought he had now been sufficiently punished for his misdeeds.

Kaïd R'miki after his release called upon Sid-el-Menebhi, who received him well and invited him to dinner, after the manner of this country, where men who are one day bitter enemies appear on the next to be bosom friends.

The Kaïd has now left for Fez to convey in person his thanks to Mulai Hafid for having ordered his release, and perhaps to endeavour to purchase his reinstatement as Governor by the presentation of a further sum of money.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

[37779] No. 33.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received October* 31.)

(No. 263.)

Sir, *Tangier, October* 23, 1908.

I HAVE the honour to report that Raisuli left for Fez to-day, accompanied by a few of the leading men of the hill tribes in this neighbourhood, who will presumably support his candidature to become their Governor. He takes with him, as I understand, a sum of 4,000*l.* in gold as an offering to Mulai Hafid, the price, so to speak, of the post he seeks.

Two days before leaving he came to see me, and inquired whether there was any objection on my part to his going to Fez in answer to an invitation he had received from Mulai Hafid. I replied that I had no objection to offer, and that he was free to accept the invitation or to decline it, as he himself thought best in his own interests. In reply to a further question, I informed him that, as he was under British protection, he need be under no fear.

Sid-el-Menebhi informs me that he has made it quite clear to Raisuli that he need not apply to be made Governor of Tangier nor of the "Fahs" (the immediate district of Tangier), for the appointment would never be accepted. With regard to the Governorship of Alcazar, which it appears Raisuli covets, and about which he inquired, Sid-el-Menebhi informed him he might try to obtain it if he could.

It is not probable that Mulai Hafid will gratify Raisuli's ambition as regards Alcazar, but he will probably appoint him Governor of some of the hill tribes. It is doubtful, however, whether he will assign him so large a district as was at first contemplated.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

[37781] No. 34.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received October* 31.)

(No. 265.)

Sir, *Tangier, October* 24, 1908.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 259 of the 18th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch I have received from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mogador, giving a full account of the affray between the soldiers and the police. Unfortunately some of the townspeople were killed and wounded, and there would probably have been more casualties had the police not been restrained from firing by their officers and the ammunition of the soldiers become exhausted. It would appear that during the excitement shots were fired at a party of Europeans, amongst them being Mr. Vice-Consul Wilkinson. It may, indeed, be considered fortunate that the incident did not lead to more serious disturbances and loss of life, as the townspeople joined in the attack on the police.

At the meeting of the foreign Representatives held here on the 19th instant the French Minister communicated to his colleagues a radiogram received from his Consul at Mogador, giving some particulars of the affair; and he also read copies of radiograms sent to the Governor and Administrators of Customs at Mogador by Cid-el-Menebhi, Cid Guebbas, and Cid Benjelun, ordering them to embark at once the regiment of El Oudiyi and send it to Tangier.

Upon receipt of this information, the foreign Representatives decided to address

a letter to Cid Guebbas applauding the step that had been taken and requesting that measures should be adopted to prevent all aggressions against the police; the hope was also expressed that the troops would in future be regularly paid, so as not to give rise to further disorders. I have the honour to transmit herewith a translation of this letter.

In his reply to the doyen, Cid Guebbas stated that orders had been previously sent to recall from Mogador such troops as were no longer required there, and that upon receipt of news of the affray with the police, orders were at once sent for the offending regiment to be sent to Tangier immediately. Cid Guebbas added that all possible steps had been taken to insure tranquillity, and that the pay of the soldiers would not again be allowed to fall into arrears.

Latest reports from Mogador are to the effect that all has been quiet there since the departure of the Oudiyi Regiment on the 20th instant.

M. Regnault tells me that he is asking for the dismissal of the Governor of Mogador on account of his unsatisfactory behaviour on this occasion. On the other hand, I hear that the Governor is addressing to Fez and to Tangier an energetic protest against the French officer, Chief Instructor of the Police at Mogador, and some of his subordinates. He charges one of the police sergeants with having provoked the disturbance by sabring some of the soldiers and populace.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 34.

Vice-Consul Wilkinson to Mr. White.

(No. 52.)

Sir, *Mogador, October* 17, 1908.

THE perfect tranquillity which I reported as prevailing in this town two days ago did not, I regret to say, last very long, and yesterday a very serious collision took place between the police force on the one side, and the soldiers of the old mehalla, assisted by townsmen, on the other.

I should first mention that for some time past there has been considerable friction between the police force under the French officers and the so-called "askaris," who, as I said in my previous despatch, are the remnants of Sultan Abdul Aziz' army that were left here after the proclamation of Mulay Hafid. I believe that both sides are equally to blame for the bad blood existing; arrogance on the part of the police and jealousy on that of the soldiers, who cannot help envying the policemen, who are regularly paid and decently dressed, largely contributed to bring things to this climax. Be this as it may, yesterday's row, according to the version of the clerk of this Vice-Consulate, who happened to be present when the first shot was fired, and that of the Captain of the Police, whose information tallies with that of Mr. Broome, originated as follows:—

In the Moorish quarter of the town a little crowd had gathered to hear some street-singers, who after each song collected coppers from the audience. The policemen, who had just received their day's pay, could afford to be more generous than the soldiers, who soon ran short of money, with the result that they were jeered at by the crowd, the police joining the chorus. Both parties began insulting each other, and from words they soon came to blows, first with stones and sticks, then the first shot was fired from an adjacent shop, and the mêlée became general, extending to several parts of the town. I happened at the time to be at the tennis grounds, at ten minutes' walk outside the town, with a party of Europeans, including the Spanish Consul's wife and their 3-year-old child. On hearing the firing of volley after volley, together with isolated shots, I suspected that something was going on, and I walked outside the grounds, when I saw my clerk running at top speed in my direction. He briefly told me what was taking place, and said we must hurry back to town, as the police were going to close the gates. We started precipitately, and when about half-way a shot was fired in our direction, the bullet whistling over our heads. We took to running, and a second bullet fell a short distance ahead of us; at the same time we were overtaken by a party of Moors on horseback, who were galloping for all they were worth in the direction of the town. We recognized the Vice-Governor of Mogador with a few soldiers, who said they were coming back from a saint's house in the vicinity. As I thought the firing was, perhaps, directed against them, I agreed with my companions to let them go ahead; fortunately no more shots were fired in

our direction, and soon after we managed to get safely into town, escorted by two soldiers that the Governor had sent to meet us. On entering the town, we found the Captain of the Police in the middle of the street trying to pacify his men, who naturally were all armed; whilst we were deliberating as to what we had to do, another shot was fired just a few yards behind us (accidentally, it appears) by one of the policemen at the gate we had just come through. Simultaneously we saw a band of askaris rushing towards us, brandishing their rifles. The whole thing looked ugly, and there was a general *sauve qui peut*, every one taking refuge where best he could. But fortunately the soldiers had, I believe, run short of ammunition, as, instead of firing, they all rushed into the barracks close by and, lining the door, waited for further developments. A moment after Captain Massoutier went to speak to them, and succeeded in quieting them down, at the same time ordering his own men at the gate to stop firing. Little after this no more shots could be heard anywhere, and, availing ourselves of the lull, my colleagues and I called on the Governor and insisted on the necessity that immediate steps should be taken in order to prevent a recurrence of this affray. He said that the first measure was to pay the askaris the arrears due to them, and the Spanish and Acting French Consuls agreed to give a joint guarantee to the State Bank for the purpose. We then pointed out to the Kaïd the desirability of disarming these soldiers; he did not conceal from us the difficulty he would meet with in doing this, especially after what had taken place, but he promised he would do his best. Subsequently we asked the Acting French Consul to request the police officers to confine their men to their barracks, for the time being at any rate, and to withdraw all ammunition from them; he fully concurred with us on this point, promising to let us know the result of his endeavours before the night was over. As, however, we did not hear from him by 9 P.M., the Spanish Consul and myself called on him, and he informed us that not a single soldier had been disarmed, and that naturally the Captain of the Police was reluctant to take any steps which could endanger the lives of his own men. We then agreed to hold a Consular meeting this morning and to request the presence of the Governor.

The first thing we unanimously decided at this morning's meeting was to send a collective telegram to the doyen of the Diplomatic Body at Tangier, copy of which I have the honour to inclose, the Acting French Consul undertaking to have it sent by the war-ship stationed here. It will be noticed in the telegram that we make special reference to the battalion ("tabor") of Abdelsalam-el-Oudi; this was done at the request of Captain Massoutier, who was present at our meeting and stated that it was chiefly the men belonging to that "tabor" who did most of the firing; he had, moreover, reason to believe that they were the ringleaders of the attack. When the Governor of the town joined the meeting, a rather unpleasant altercation took place between him and Captain Massoutier, both throwing the blame of what had taken place on each other. When they calmed down, we presented a series of requests to the Kaïd, as had been previously arranged, to all of which he agreed, declaring, besides, that he was willing to make himself responsible for the tranquillity of the town and the safety of its inhabitants, provided the police officers, on their side, took adequate measures to maintain order and discipline amongst their men.

Just before separating, the Captain of the Police, who naturally had heard of the two shots that were fired against the party of Europeans returning from the tennis grounds, assured us that it was not his men who had fired against us, but some Moors from an adjoining house. I told him that we were certainly, all of us, under the impression that these two shots came from the bastion near the Marakesh gate, on which we distinctly saw a body of policemen, but that in presence of his assertion we could not but dismiss the subject.

The number of killed, so far as I have been able to ascertain, amounts to three killed and several wounded amongst the townspeople; on the police side, one man wounded by rifle bullet and several others by stones, sticks, and knives.

In conclusion, I think I must lay stress on the danger of leaving all these soldiers at this port. Apart from the fact that no adequate provision seems to have been made to pay them, there is the no less disquieting feature that bad blood exists between them and the police force, and the feeling of hostility towards the latter is fully shared by the natives here, who naturally take advantage of the presence of the soldiers to vent their feeling when an opportunity arises.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. WILKINSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 34.

Comte de Buisseret to Cid Guebbas.

Tanger, le 19 *Octobre*, 1908.

LES Consuls des Puissances à Mogador ont télégraphié aux Représentants des Puissances qu'une collision s'étant produite dans ce port entre le tabor d'Abdselam-el-Oudii et le tabor de la police, ils ont demandé l'éloignement d'urgence des troupes Chérifiennes pour éviter le retour de ces évévements.

Les Représentants des Puissances ont appris avec satisfaction que déjà des ordres ont été donnés aux autorités Makhzéniennes pour que les troupes soient déplacées d'urgence, et ils vous en remercient.

Ils sont persuadés que vous continuerez à vous employer avec énergie pour empêcher toute agression contre la police qui garantie la sécurité des ressortissants étrangers et les transactions commerciales. Ils vous signalent notamment la nécessité de faire exécuter sans retard le paiement de la solde de la garnison Chérifienne, dont l'interruption contribue aux désordres signalés.

(Signé) BUISSERET.

[37783] No. 35.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received October* 31.)

(No. 267.)

Sir, *Tangier, October* 24, 1908.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch I have received from His Majesty's Consul at Casa Blanca reporting an alleged alliance between the powerful Kaïds of the south, presumably for their own ends.

This report tends to confirm news which reached the French Minister some little time since to the effect that these Kaïds intended to remain practically independent. M. Regnault thinks that Kaïd-el-Glawi distrusts Mulai Hafid and does not intend to return to Fez, whilst Kaïd M'toogi is said to refuse to attend the mosque at Marakesh so as to avoid praying for Mulai Hafid as Sultan. These Kaïds are reported to have agreed to recognize the first Sultan to reach Marakesh. It is difficult to know whether there is really any truth in these reports. Sid-el-Menebhi, who is a great personal friend of Kaïd-el-Glawi and is in constant correspondence with him, does not believe the reports, and says that El Glawi will come to Fez shortly after the feast. It is, however, probable that, like Sid-el-Menebhi himself, the southern Kaïds are much disappointed in Mulai Hafid and have lost their confidence in him. This feeling is indeed becoming very general throughout the country, and Mulai Hafid is rapidly losing such popularity as he enjoyed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 35.

Consul Madden to Mr. White.

(No. 270.)

Sir, *Casa Blanca, October* 22, 1908.

THE Vice-Consul at Saffi informs me that the three great Kaïds of the south, Aissa-ben-Omar, El Glawi, and El M'toogi, who are now in Morocco city, are all working together in perfect harmony in a regular ring, not uninfluenced by common jealousy of the growing influence of the advisers of Mulai Hafid who are now in Fez, and of El Menebhi and Sid Guebbas.

El Glawi has married a daughter of Kaïd-el-M'toogi, while the latter is to have his residence in Morocco city, his son being appointed over the Kabyla in his father's place.

The mastery of these three over all the tribes of the Houz and Soos Provinces is complete, El Ayadi, the chief Kaïd of Rahamna, who attacked Mulai Abdelaziz' mahalla, being under Kaïd Aissa-ben-Omar's orders, while El Gundaffi in the mountains, and Urreah, Kaïd of Oolad Bou Seba, are faithful to the commands of the three Governors aforesaid.

Large sums of money are being collected from all the tribes, ostensibly for Mulai Hafid, and the report is current that these three great Kaïds are to collect a strong mahalla and march to Rabat and Fez with the men and money they have collected; but whether this move is intended as a support of the Hafidist throne or as a counter-stroke to the growing power of the new Viziers whom Mulai Hafid is summoning to his councils is a matter for conjecture.

Such leagues, however, among natives are usually of short duration, jealousy of one another being usually the rock on which they split.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. M. MADDEN.

[37911] No. 36.

Count de Salis to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received November* 2.)

(No. 484. Confidential.)

Sir, *Berlin, October* 30, 1908.

WITH reference to Sir F. Lascelles' despatch No. 461 of the 20th instant, the French Ambassador told me this morning that a few days ago Herr von Schön, in the course of conversation with reference to the draft of the note to be presented to Muley Hafid by the Diplomatic Body at Tangier with regard to his recognition as Sultan, remarked that, in the opinion of the German Foreign Office, Muley Hafid had been the rightful Sultan since the 5th January, the date on which his accession had been proclaimed by the Mullahs at Fez. M. Jules Cambon replied that he could not accept this view; the German Government had evidently not held it last spring when they refused to receive officially Muley Hafid's Envoys. No doubt there were Germans who had made contracts with Muley Hafid while he was fighting against his brother, and who were desirous of seeing any such date adopted. To a remark from Herr von Schön that there were also perhaps Frenchmen who had continued to furnish supplies to Abdul Aziz after his cause was virtually lost, M. Cambon rejoined that of course claims on any such account would have to be closely examined, but that the French Government could not admit that Abdul Aziz had ceased to be Sultan until he himself began talking of abdication, which would be about the 10th September last, nor that Muley Hafid had become his legitimate successor until his formal recognition had taken place.

Herr von Schön has presumably abandoned the contention, since yesterday he definitely informed M. Cambon that his Government agreed to the note, and had no observations to offer. The communication was made verbally, but M. Cambon added that he would place the matter on record by writing a formal note expressing thanks for the decision of the German Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. DE SALIS.

[38577] No. 37.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Bertie.

(No. 525.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 3, 1908.

THE French Chargé d'Affaires came to tell me to-day that he had received a telegram from M. Pichon which he wished to communicate to me confidentially.

On the 14th ultimo Herr von Schoen proposed to M. Jules Cambon that, as the differences of opinion about the Casa Blanca incident could not be settled otherwise, they should be referred to arbitration.

M. Cambon accepted arbitration.

On the 16th ultimo Prince Radolin in Paris said that the German Government demanded the immediate release of the German subjects who had been arrested as deserters, and an apology for the violence offered to officials of the German Consulate.

To this M. Pichon had replied that he could not have an apology from French officers, and that in any case the French Government had already accepted arbitration.

Nothing more was heard till the 1st instant, when Prince Radolin presented

formally a demand in writing for the immediate release of the German deserters and an apology, such as he had already spoken about.

M. Pichon had answered that the French Government adhered to their decision to accept arbitration, and that the different points raised by the incident were so connected that they would all be covered by arbitration.

M. Pichon thought, however, that it was significant that this demand should have been made formally in writing, and on a Sunday, which was not a usual day for business. He thought that the demand might have been made as an attempt to divert attention in Germany from the stir created by the publication of the interview with the Emperor.

I told the French Chargé d'Affaires that this news seemed to me very important and extraordinary.

He asked whether I had heard anything from Berlin of a nature to cause apprehension.

I told him I had heard nothing of this kind. No word had passed between us and the German Government about the interview with the Emperor. Count Metternich had, indeed, come to see me the day after its publication, but he had come about some trifling matter, and had made no reference to the interview. I had made no reference to it either, because I did not know what to say about it, and I thought it would be an embarrassing subject. Count Metternich had since gone away for a few days, and I had attributed this to the embarrassment caused to the German Government by the publication of the interview.

I had felt that the consequences of the interview, and the difficulties created by it, were bound to cause bad humour in Berlin, none the less because the whole thing was entirely the Germans' own fault. But I had heard nothing whatever that tended to show that the German Government were likely to make trouble.

There was clearly nothing for me to do at present but to wait till I heard what answer the German Government returned to M. Pichon's reply to Prince Radolin's formal demand.

I hoped the French Government would keep me informed of the course of events.

I observed that a comparison of the dates would point to the instructions to Prince Radolin at Paris having been drawn up the same day as the official explanation of the Emperor's interview.

I hardly thought the Germans could force a question on which arbitration had been accepted to the point of a quarrel; it would put the whole opinion of the world against them, which, after all, counted for something.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. GREY.

[38437] No. 38.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received November 5.)

(No. 440.)

Sir, *Paris, November 4, 1908.*

THE President of the Council, who returned to Paris yesterday, sent me a message by Mr. Lister, who had called on him to take leave before starting for Tangier, to say that he was not at all satisfied with the attitude of the German Government in regard to the desertion cases at Casa Blanca, and that it might mean mischief. I therefore went to see M. Clemenceau this afternoon after an interview which I had with the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

I will first describe what M. Pichon said to me on the subject, though I was informed by his Excellency that he was keeping you acquainted through the French Embassy in London with the communications which were passing between the French and German Governments. On the 14th October M. Pichon received by telegraph from the French Ambassador at Berlin a proposal from M. de Schoen that the Casa Blanca incident should be referred to arbitration. He accepted the proposal the next day after consultation with the President of the Council. Hardly had this acceptance been communicated to the German Government, when M. de Schoen informed M. Jules Cambon that there was a matter which Prince Bülow considered should be settled apart from arbitration. It was the assault on the German Consular officials, for which the French Government should express their regret. M. Pichon replied at once that when he accepted arbitration it was for the whole incident—the question of

right in regard to the arrest of the deserters from the French Foreign Legion and the question of the acts which accompanied those arrests. Whether the latter were justified or not depended on what the Arbitration Tribunal decided on the question of the right of arrest, and he could not separate the two questions. The German Government suggested that advantage might be taken of M. Renault being in Berlin for him to place himself in communication with the Legal Adviser of the German Foreign Office to endeavour to come to an understanding on the divergent statements as to the acts of violence. M. Pichon consented to their discussing the matter, but there was no satisfactory result. On the 1st instant the German Ambassador had an interview with M. Pichon, and, in the name of the German Government, demanded that the French Government should express regret at the acts of violence ("voies de fait") committed against German Consular officials by French officers and officials. For the reasons already stated, M. Pichon declined to do this. He stated to Prince Radolin that, if the arbitration went against the French contention, it might be possible that an expression of regret at the arrests and the manner of their execution might be due, but certainly not before the arbitration. He would, if the German Government so wished, consent to an expression of regret on both sides that the incident should have been accompanied by acts of violence ("voies de fait"), leaving it undetermined which side was the first assailant and in the wrong, the expression of regret to be recorded either by an exchange of notes of even date or in the preamble to the Arbitration Agreement or in any other suitable manner. That was the actual state of the case. The French Government had been most conciliatory. Possibly this proceeding on the part of the German Government was intended to divert public attention in Germany from the Emperor's conversations, and to endeavour to obtain a cheap triumph at the expense of France, but the French Government were quite determined not to yield beyond the offer that he had made for a mutual expression of regret. They could not, even if they were inclined so to do, apologize for the acts of their army and navy officers. The deserters had tumbled out of a boat into the sea, and had been seized, and justifiably seized, by the French officers and officials, the German Consular officials had intervened, and "voies de fait" had occurred. As to who began the acts of violence the German and French Governments were not agreed, but, as the German officials tried to release the prisoners, the probability was undoubtedly that they had begun the violence.

M. Pichon said that he would keep His Majesty's Government and the Russian Government informed of all the phases of this fresh difference between Germany and France, and he trusted that the French Government would receive their support in resisting the unjustifiable demands of the German Government.

I told M. Clemenceau what M. Pichon had said to me, and I asked him whether he really thought that Germany was seeking a pretext of quarrel with France. His Excellency replied that, in the present frame of mind of the Emperor and the state of chaos at Berlin, it was impossible to say what the German Government wanted. He did not think that they knew themselves. The French Government were, however, quite determined not to give way beyond the offer made by them that mutual regrets at the acts of violence should be placed on record. The danger was the impossibility to depend on the German Emperor from one day to another. The publication of his conversations in the "Daily Telegraph" was the act of a madman. The *coup* had "manqué," but he might try another to rehabilitate himself in the eyes of his people.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS BERTIE.

[38538] No. 39.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received November 5.)

(No. 85.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Paris, November 5, 1908.*

CASA BLANCA incident.

(Confidential.)

See my despatch No. 440 of yesterday's date. I have been informed confidentially to-day that the Cabinet Council held this morning approved the attitude adopted by M. Clemenceau and M. Pichon in regard to the negotiations with Germany relative to the arrest at Casa Blanca of deserters from the Foreign Legion.

[38554] No. 40.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received November 5.)

(No. 241.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *St. Petersburgh, November 5, 1908.*

CASA BLANCA incident.

The latest developments of this question and the German demands are causing the Minister for Foreign Affairs much anxiety. He fears that the question may become extremely serious, and would be glad if I could be authorized to communicate to him your impressions of the situation.

578] No. 41.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Bertie.

(No. 247.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, November 5, 1908.*

CASA BLANCA incident.

I told French Chargé d'Affaires that His Majesty's Government are prepared to say, whenever and wherever it may be useful, that they consider that matter is one which should be settled by arbitration.

[38578] No. 42.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir F. Bertie.

(No. 526.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November 5, 1908.*

THE French Chargé d'Affaires showed me to-day a telegram from M. Pichon, stating that M. Isvolsky had been greatly disturbed by hearing that the Germans had made new trouble about the Casablanca incident, because before M. Isvolsky left Berlin quite recently, Prince Bülow had told him that the Casablanca affair was settled except for one or two small details.

M. Isvolsky had gone on to say that he heard from a sure source that Austria was intending to advance upon Belgrade, and that whether she carried out her intention or not would depend upon what passed at the meeting of the German Emperor and the Austrian Heir-Apparent.

I told the French Chargé d'Affaires that, after he had given me the previous information about the German attitude towards the Casablanca incident, I had spoken to the Prime Minister. It seemed to us that there was nothing to be done for the moment till the German reply was received.

I expressed the opinion, however, that the matter was one which ought to be settled by arbitration, and I said that we were ready to express that opinion whenever, and in whatever quarter, it would be useful. I doubted whether, at the present moment, Germany would be willing to listen to advice from outside.

As France had already accepted arbitration, when this matter became public, there would clearly be but one opinion: that France was in the right.

The French Chargé d'Affaires pointed out that this last development had leaked out first in Berlin.

I observed that this made it seem as if the matter had intentionally been timed for the meeting of the Reichstag, and as if the matter would be arranged as soon as it had served its purpose.

But it was very dangerous to play with things of this kind in public, as it was easy for two countries to drift into a position from which neither of them could recede.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. GREY.

[38663] No. 43.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received November 6.)

(No. 242.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *St. Petersburgh, November 6, 1908.*

CASA BLANCA deserters.

Following is in continuation of the short telegram No. 241 which I dispatched to you last evening:—

Minister for Foreign Affairs fears that the German Government have framed their demands with the view to draw the attention of the public from other matters, and his Excellency hears that the German Ambassador will leave Paris on indefinite leave of absence if these demands are not acceded to. M. Isvolsky told me that the Emperor William had said recently that a ring was being formed around him, but that he would break through, and that if this policy were persisted in he would go to war with the whole world, if necessary. His Excellency much fears that in his present frame of mind the German Emperor may go to dangerous lengths. In his opinion no moment could possibly be more inopportune for Germany than the present, since Austria will have her hands full with Balkan affairs, and Italy would probably remain neutral. He asked what attitude we would adopt in the event of an acute crisis arising, I said that of course my remarks must only be regarded as those of a private individual, but that we would, I was sure, do our best to avert a catastrophe and obtain a pacific solution. In the event of war, however, it was impossible to say what we might not do. I thought it very possible that if Germany rushed into an unprovoked war against her we might join hands with France, but would the German people allow their Emperor to saddle them with a war? The question was, I maintained, open to some doubt.

I imagine that M. Isvolsky, who is much perturbed, must have received some news of a more disturbing character than that which has appeared in the press.

[38554] No. 44.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 580.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, November 6, 1908.*

CASA BLANCA incident.

Your telegram No. 241.

You may tell M. Isvolsky unofficially that the Casa Blanca incident will, in my personal opinion, be settled. I cannot imagine Germany can force France into a conflict at such a time. To act in this way would probably precipitate an outbreak of hostilities in the Balkans, the ultimate result of which might be to involve nearly the whole of Europe in war. I cannot, however, help feeling somewhat disturbed about it, for I cannot conjecture the nature of the German motive in reopening the Casa Blanca affair. The risks involved by utilizing such a question in public to obtain a Parliamentary success seem disproportionate to the advantages which might be gained.

The attitudes taken up by France and Germany in regard to arbitration have clearly put the former in the right and the latter in the wrong. I expect that this will be the view taken abroad, while I am convinced that it will be held strongly in this country. If the crisis becomes acute, which I hope and trust will not be the case, we might suggest to Italy and Russia that they should address a joint appeal to France and Germany, couched in strong terms, to refer the question, in the interest of peace, either to The Hague or to the good offices of some unbiassed authority who would enjoy the respect and confidence of both parties. To offer advice to Germany before a conflict became imminent would probably be resented, and arbitration should only be pressed on her as a last resort.

[38672] No. 45.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 272. Confidential.)
(Extract.)

Tangier, October 29, 1908.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 166 of the 15th instant, I have the honour to report that I have been informed confidentially that Mr. Ashmead-Bartlett has been received by Mulai Hafid, who has consented to discuss the modifications it is desired to introduce into the draft contract for a Mining Concession, but desired to let the matter stand over until after his recognition.

Mr. Bock, a German merchant at Fez, called upon Mr. Ashmead-Bartlett and told him he was acquainted with the terms of his contract, which, indeed, he showed he was by quoting them, and informing him that a German Company was also negotiating with Mulai Hafid for a Mining Concession, suggested that they should amalgamate and work together, adding that his Company was receiving strong support from the German Consul, Dr. Vassel.

Mr. Ashmead-Bartlett is, I understand, inclined to entertain this offer, in the hope that any Concession that may be obtained would have more chance of overcoming opposition if it had the support of the German Legation.

The German Company referred to is, I believe, one in which Mr. Mannismann is interested, a Mr. Hoffmann having recently been at Fez in connection with the matter and returned to Germany a short time since. Mr. Mannismann was in Tangier and Fez for some time in 1906, as reported in my despatch No. 159 of the 1st September of that year.

[38674] No. 46.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 274.)
Sir,

Tangier, October 31, 1908.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 256 of the 16th instant, I have the honour to report that M. Regnault read to me a despatch which had been addressed to him by the Acting French Consul at Casa Blanca, stating that he had received a letter from the Austrian Consul withdrawing, by order of his Government, his two notes protesting against the arrest of the Austrian deserter from the Foreign Legion, and requesting that these notes be returned to him and considered as not having been written. The French Consul accordingly returned the notes in question, and the Austrian Consul sent him back his letter communicating General d'Amade's reply to the protest.

The incident has thus, so far as the question of the Austrian protest is concerned, been settled to the entire satisfaction of the French Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

[38675] No. 47.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 275.)
Sir,

Tangier, October 31, 1908.

I HAVE the honour to report that Dr. Rosen returned to Tangier on the 29th instant by German merchant-vessel from Marseilles. The Governor's deputy went on board to welcome him on arrival and remained a long time closeted with him in the saloon, which was kept locked during the interview. When Ministers arrive in a vessel of war it is customary for the local authorities to meet them on landing, but it is not usual for them to meet them when returning from leave on a merchant-vessel, and it is without precedent for a Moorish official to go on board to greet a foreign Minister.

M. Regnault does not anticipate that his official relations with Dr. Rosen will be any pleasanter than before, as he is evidently to continue the former policy, indeed he told the representative of the Comité du Maroc, who was a fellow-passenger on board the steamer, that he returned to Tangier with the same instructions as before, namely, to see that commercial equality was maintained, and that commercial equality could not exist without political equality.

Baron von Wangenheim leaves for Germany to-morrow. In speaking to me of his departure he left the impression on my mind that it was possible that Dr. Rosen may be transferred to Persia or some other post before long; he added that he would like to return with the definite appointment as Minister here if the present condition of affairs politically were changed, but that he would not accept the post under present conditions, which were very distasteful to him. He held out no hope, however, of the policy of his Government in Morocco being changed for the present.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

[38676] No. 48.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 276.)
Sir,

Tangier, October 31, 1908.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch I have received from His Majesty's Consul at Casa Blanca reporting overtures said to have been made to Mulai Abdel-Aziz by Kaids M'tougi and Aissa-ben-Omar, and the alleged attitude of General d'Amade thereto.

I inquired, confidentially, of M. Regnault whether he had any confirmation of this report. He stated that he had heard from private sources that Mulai Abdel-Aziz had been approached by the southern Kaids, but that he had received nothing officially on the subject, and considered that the report required confirmation.

He was sure the report, in so far as it referred to General d'Amade having been approached in the matter and having promised a certain measure of support, is devoid of foundation, as, had it been true, he would certainly have been informed.

With reference to the last paragraph of Mr. Madden's despatch, I may mention that reports have been current here of the death of the Grand Vizier, Kaid El-Madani-el-Glawi. He appears to have been seriously ill, but according to the latest news received by Cid-el-Menebhi and by M. Regnault, he is recovering from his illness.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 48.

Consul Madden to Mr. White.

(No. 276. Confidential.)
Sir,

Casa Blanca, October 29, 1908.

MULAI L'AMIN, the Viceroy, has confidentially informed the scribe of the Danish Vice-Consulate, who is a friend of his, that on the first day of the Moorish Feast after Ramadan, that is on the 27th instant, three special couriers arrived here bearing letters to the Sultan Abdel-Aziz from Kaid M'tougi and Kaid Aissa-ben-Omar and from some influential Moors at Morocco City inviting His Shereefian Majesty to go to Morocco, promising him a welcome there as Sultan.

The letters stated that the two above-mentioned Kaids would each provide a force of 300 cavalry to escort the Sultan, but they asked at the same time for the assistance of the French troops.

Mulai L'Amin took the letters to General d'Amade, who said he would wish the Viceroy to reply cordially welcoming the soldiers of El M'tougi and Aissa-ben-Omar, and promising the services of the French troops to accompany Abdel-Aziz as far as the ford of Meshraa-es-Shaer (*i.e.*, the barley ford) on the River Um-er-Rebia; and that, further, he would supply the whole of the Shawia to go on beyond the river with Mulai Abdel-Aziz to Morocco City.

The Sultan Abdel-Aziz was, my informant stated, very much pleased with the letters received.

News was also received that Kaid Ci El-Madani-el-Glawi, one of the principal political personages in the south, is lying ill at his castle in the Glawi. His brother, Ci Thami-el-Glawi, the Basha of Morocco City, has left the city to join him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. M. MADDEN.

[38677] No. 49.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 277.)

Sir, *Tangier, October* 31, 1908.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your despatch No. 170 of the 22nd instant, inclosing copy of the note to be addressed to Mulai Hafid, containing the conditions of his recognition as Sultan by the Powers, and authorizing me to sign it when asked to do so.

I communicated to the French and Spanish Ministers the substance of this despatch, and was informed that most of the Powers have now accepted the note as at present drafted. It is understood, however, that the note will be signed only by the Dean of the Diplomatic Body, on behalf of himself and his colleagues, as is the practice here, and not by all the Representatives separately.

There has been some doubt as to the mode of presenting the note, some of the Representatives being apparently under the impression that it is intended that the Dean of the Diplomatic Body should proceed to Fez in order to present the note in person, as was done in the case of the Algeciras Act. The position now is, however, entirely different, and it seems to the majority of the Representatives undesirable that the doyen should proceed to Fez, as the very fact of his going on a mission to Mulai Hafid would imply a recognition of his sovereignty. The doyen would also be placed in an embarrassing position, when having audience of Mulai Hafid to present the note, as to whether to treat him as Sultan or not; the former would amount to his recognition before acceptation of the terms, whilst the latter alternative would doubtless cause offence. The general opinion is therefore that the note should be sent to Fez, by courier, and not be presented in person. The French and Spanish Ministers and I myself concur in this opinion, and I am informed that Baron von Wangenheim does also, but I have no information as to what view of the matter Dr. Rosen may take.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

[38679] No. 50.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 279. Confidential.)

Sir, *Tangier, November* 1, 1908.

MR. IRWIN reports to me that during a conversation he had yesterday evening with Cid-el-Menebhi, the latter referred to reports which had reached him regarding the peculations of Cid-el-Guebbas from army moneys, and El Menebhi spoke on this matter with considerable warmth, as he felt he was to a certain extent responsible, it having been on his recommendation that the post of Commander of the troops here had been given to Cid-el-Guebbas. In making that recommendation he had been guided by the wishes of the French Minister; he was therefore averse to taking serious action in the matter so as to avoid giving any cause of offence to M. Regnault. He had, however, considered it his duty to inform Mulai Hafid that he wished to disassociate himself from any acts of Cid-el-Guebbas in which public moneys are concerned, and could accept no responsibility in that respect.

Cid-el-Guebbas is at present in receipt of a salary of about 130*l.* per month, with other allowances, and his son about 30*l.* He has appointed various assistants at salaries aggregating about 260*l.* per month, of which it is presumed he retains the lion's share, and not content with this, he has been collecting some 10*l.* per day in excess of the sums expended on the military force here by inscribing fictitious names on the list of soldiers. El Menebhi has satisfied himself that these accusations are well founded, and yesterday remonstrated with Cid-el-Guebbas who, however, denied that there was any truth in them; El Menebhi, however, intends to again speak seriously to Cid-el-Guebbas on this subject. He said that M. Regnault was aware of the reputation gained by Cid-el-Guebbas when Minister of War under Mulai Abdelaziz, El Menebhi himself having brought most serious matters to his notice in that respect.

El Menebhi added that Cid Dris Benjelun, Moorish representative on the Banque d'État, is very dissatisfied at the way in which the funds at the Banque d'État are being squandered by certain officials, and threatens to resign if matters do not improve. He informed El Menebhi that about 10,000*l.* had been withdrawn by them in a very short time.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

[38693] No. 51.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 444.)

Sir, *Paris, November* 5, 1908.

THE "Temps" of this evening publishes a further article on the Casa Blanca incident.

It declares that the position taken up by Germany, that France should express regret for the acts of violence towards the German Consular official before an arbitral decision has been given is entirely inadmissible. This demand, the article states, is purposely put forward to create a diversion and to distract public attention from the excitement created in Germany by the publication of the Emperor's declarations in the "Daily Telegraph" and its consequences. The Schnaebele incident was utilized by Bismarck in much the same way.

France is in a good position to meet this demand. The German Government know that it is inacceptable, and also that it cannot be pushed to an extreme point. It is not the moment for Germany to think seriously of provoking an appeal to arms. Austria is taken up with Balkan matters; the Balkan peoples are seeking an occasion to bar the road to Teutonic aspirations; Russia, awakened by a Slavonic impulse, seeks for a national revenge; France is ready to defend her dignity in a military and a moral sense; England possesses undeniable supremacy at sea; and Italy is disinclined to sacrifice herself for interests which are not hers. Prince Bülow is far too clever to commit a supreme impudence, and Frenchmen can be sure that he will not do so in this case. Three years ago their nerves were not in a state to resist shocks of this kind; that is not the case to-day. The Government would do well, the article concludes, to publish the documents relating to the Casa Blanca incident.

In another part of the paper a telegram is published from the correspondent of the "Temps" at Berlin to the effect that he learns that it is simply a question of formulating mutual regrets that the agents of the two countries exceeded the proper bounds of moderation, that the French soldiers should have used violence towards a German Consular party, and that, on the other hand, the German Consul should have gone beyond his instructions.

The "Journal des Débats" publishes a moderately worded article on the same question. It points out that, at the time of the Hull incident, Great Britain, which is as susceptible on the point of honour as any other country, did not call for any expression of regret, nor was any given by Russia, before the sentence of the arbitrators had been given. Germany can well be satisfied by an analogous settlement of the Casa Blanca incident.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS BERTIE.

[38695] No. 52.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 446.)

Sir, *Paris, November* 6, 1908.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the following résumé of a leading article which appeared this evening in the "Temps" with reference to the Casa Blanca incident.

According to German semi-official communiqués, Germany has asked that France should express regret that French soldiers should have used violence towards the Agent of the German Consulate at Casa Blanca while exercising his functions. She is ready herself to express regret at the same time that her Consular Officer should not invariably have observed the necessary precautions in granting *sauf-conduits*. France

cannot accept this proposal, or pronounce a blame upon herself before the sentence of an Arbitral Court be given. She cannot recognize that the German Consular Agent was "exercising his functions" in aiding deserters to escape. The French Government would however accept some formula which affords evidence that the two Governments are in accord in "regretting the incident which took place on the 25th September, and the acts of violence on both sides which resulted." An expression of regret thus formulated would in no way prejudice the matter. M. Pichon has proposed to settle the question in this manner and the German Government are to-day examining his proposal. The German press has shown moderation in discussing the affair, so much justice must be rendered to it; and the patriotic unanimity of the French press must be recorded with great pleasure. Even the most determined opponents of M. Clemenceau have declared that "they will rally behind the flag with eyes shut." This national solidarity is a great satisfaction for all Frenchmen, and does honour to M. Clemenceau's Cabinet, and especially to M. Pichon, who by the firmness and loyalty of their foreign policy have justified it. It is a case for according a "just homage" to the French Government.

The Berlin correspondent of the "Temps" telegraphed to-day to his paper that he learnt that the French formula was yesterday submitted by M. Cambon to Herr von Schoen. The latter, it is believed, will suggest some slight modifications in the wording, but not of a kind likely to raise difficulties.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS BERTIE.

[38696] No. 53.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 447. Confidential.)
Sir, *Paris, November 6, 1908.*

I PAID a visit to the Political Director at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs this afternoon in order to inquire whether there had been any fresh developments of the difference between the German and French Governments in regard to the Casa Blanca incident. I informed M. Louis of the statement which you had made to the French Chargé d'Affaires as recorded in your telegram to me No. 247 of yesterday evening, viz., that the incident seemed to His Majesty's Government to be a matter to be settled by arbitration, and that they would be prepared to express that view on whatever occasion and in whatever quarter it might be thought likely to be useful.

M. Louis was glad to know exactly what you had said to the French Chargé d'Affaires. He told me that conversations were taking place between the two Governments to endeavour to settle a formula for an expression of regret by both of them at *voies de fait* having taken place in the course of the incident at Casa Blanca. The German Government had not yet withdrawn their demand for the surrender of the deserters or for reparation for the acts of violence against the German Consular official which was made in the note which the German Ambassador addressed to the French Minister for Foreign Affairs on the 1st instant. The foreign policy of Germany, M. Louis said, appeared to be in the hands of so many people of divergent views that it was impossible to know what the German Government really wanted. At one moment it was the Emperor, at another Prince Bülow, at another M. de Schoen, and at another M. de Holstein, who seemed to inspire the communications made to foreign Governments.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS BERTIE.

[38819] No. 54.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 86.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Paris, November 7, 1908.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 447 of yesterday and to Sir A. Nicolson's telegram No. 242 of the same date in regard to the desertions at Casa Blanca, I saw M. Pichon this morning and learnt from him that the question of unlimited leave of absence being accorded to the German Ambassador at Paris is not a suggestion recently

made. M. Pichon told me that at that time, when the Casa Blanca difference was in its acute stage, the German Chancellor said to the French Ambassador at Berlin that something would have to be done to satisfy public opinion in Germany if the two Governments failed to arrive at an agreement. In reply to M. Jules Cambon's inquiry as to what he meant, Prince Bülow stated that in such an event he might be compelled to recommend that the Emperor should give unlimited leave of absence from Paris to Prince Radolin.

There have been no fresh developments in the situation since yesterday, when the position was as follows:—

The German Government desire that the Declaration of the French Government should express regret for the acts of violence committed by the French authorities against the German Consular officials, whilst the German Declaration would express regret that the German Consul should have overstepped the limits of his functions in extending his protection to persons who were not entitled to it. The French Government, however, insist that any formula of regret must be couched in vague terms in order to avoid prejudging the arbitral decision on the questions at issue, and that the expression of regret must be mutual to the effect that both Governments regret that *voies de fait* should have resulted from the incident.

The wording of the proposed Declarations has been referred to the German Emperor, who is at present absent from Berlin on a shooting excursion, and pending a reply from His Majesty the discussions are suspended.

Since the date of my despatch No. 440 of the 4th instant there has been no change in the attitude of the French Government.

[38803] No. 55.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 245.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *St. Petersburgh, November 7, 1908.*

FRANCE and Germany.

I knew that M. Isvolsky was anxious to have your views as soon as possible, and I therefore communicated to him this morning the substance of your telegram No. 580 of yesterday (the 6th instant). His Excellency told me that a telegram which he had received from Berlin held out some hopes of the matter being settled peaceably, but he still feels uneasy, and his uneasiness will not be allayed until an arrangement is finally arrived at.

[38856] No. 56.

Count de Salis to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received November 9.)

(No. 488. Confidential.)
Sir, *Berlin, November 6, 1908.*

THE excitement created by the publication of the Emperor's interview in the "Daily Telegraph" for some days turned the attention of the German press away from the developments of the recent Casa Blanca negotiations as reported in Sir F. Lascelles' No. 461 of the 20th ultimo. During the last day or two, however, the alarmist reports published in the French press have revived the interest here in the Moroccan incident, and the German papers have been publishing long articles of recrimination in answer to the French remarks upon the German Government's unconciliatory attitude. In some quarters it has even been suggested that this sudden renewal of active interest in a foreign incident has been artificially awakened in order to divert attention from awkward subjects nearer home.

This morning's papers adopt a calmer tone, and announce that the negotiations between the two Governments are proceeding satisfactorily, and will soon lead to an arrangement that will be acceptable to both sides. Meanwhile, the following semi-official account is given of the course of the negotiations up to the present time:—

On the 14th ultimo Herr von Schön, in an unofficial conversation with M. Cambon, suggested, among other solutions of the Casa Blanca difficulty, the possibility of submitting the question to arbitration. On the 15th ultimo Prince Radolin reported that M. Pichon had informed him that he was ready to agree to the proposal to submit

the question to arbitration, as conveyed to him in a despatch from M. Cambon. But in the meanwhile M. Cambon received a further communication from Herr von Schön requesting that he would not regard his suggestion as a formal proposal. On the 18th ultimo accordingly Prince Bülow had an interview with M. Cambon in the presence of Herr von Schön, in which the Chancellor proposed the following solution of the matter:—

1. France was to express her regret at the interference of her officials with the prerogatives of the German Consul by the violent seizure by French officers of various persons who were under the protection and charge of the German Consul.
2. Germany was to express her regret for the incorrect conduct of the German Consul in giving passes to persons who had no right to them.
3. The legal question to be submitted to arbitration.

The French view is understood to be that the facts also should be submitted to arbitration, and that no preliminary apology can be required of the French Government.

On my inquiry yesterday as to whether the accounts in the papers were more or less accurate, M. Cambon replied that he was fairly sanguine of being able to arrive at a satisfactory settlement; he was, however, rather hampered by the uncompromising attitude of the French press. I understood that to another inquirer he added in the strictest confidence "and of M. Clemenceau," who would, however, he hoped, ultimately give way to the extent of agreeing to a vague and general expression of regret on the part of both Governments.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. DE SALIS.

[38971] No. 57.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received November 9.)

(No. 448.)
Sir, *Paris, November 7, 1908.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith, extracted from the "Journal des Débats" of this evening's issue, a semi-official statement to the effect that one of the deserters arrested at Casa Blanca has been found to be a naturalized French citizen. It therefore appears that of the six deserters to whom the German Consul extended his protection four were not of German nationality.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS BERTIE.

Inclosure in No. 57.

Extract from the "Journal des Débats" of November 8, 1908.

LES NÉGOCIATIONS FRANCO-ALLEMANDES.

Les Déserteurs de Casa Blanca.

LA présidence du Conseil nous communique la note suivante :—

"L'un des déserteurs arrêtés le 25 Septembre dernier à Casa Blanca, le nommé Jules Meyer, de la 16e compagnie du 2e Étranger, portant le numéro matricule 14926, a été naturalisé Français le 16 Mars dernier, ainsi qu'en témoigne le 'Bulletin des Lois.' Son identité est prouvée par des tatouages caractéristiques. D'ailleurs, il revendique lui-même la nationalité Française. D'où il résulte que, sur six déserteurs que le Consul d'Allemagne couvrait de sa protection comme Allemands, il y avait quatre non-Allemands, dont un Français.

"Nous pouvons ajouter que le Chancelier du Consulat Allemand, M. Just, ne portait ni uniforme ni aucun signe caractéristique de sa fonction et qu'il en était de même de l'indigène Marocain qui se trouvait avec lui. En revanche, tous ceux qui sont intervenus au nom des autorités Françaises étaient en uniforme."

[38821] No. 58.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received November 9.)

(No. 88.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, November 8, 1908.*

CASA BLANCA desertions.

The French are rather perplexed by the sudden departure from Berlin of M. de Schoen, who was carrying on, and was to have continued, the conversations with the French Ambassador on the formula for mutual expressions of regret. They hope, and are inclined to think, that Prince Bülow is preparing to adopt a new and more conciliatory attitude. The latest phase is that the French Government are ready to join with the German Government in mutual expressions of regret that the incident at Casa Blanca should have occurred, as well as of regret that it should have been accompanied by acts of violence. The formula would not particularly specify what the incident was. The French Government think that Prince Bülow will prolong the conversations till after the interpellation in the Reichstag.

[39106] No. 59.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received November 10.)

(No. 451.)
Sir, *Paris, November 9, 1908.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you, with reference to my despatch No. 448 of the 7th instant, that M. Pichon told me on that day that one of the three Casa Blanca deserters from the Foreign Legion whom the German Government claimed to be Germans was an Alsatian who was naturalized as a French citizen on the 16th March last.

The contention of the German Government will no doubt be that such naturalization without German official authority does not divest him of his German allegiance when in Germany, and therefore does not entitle the French Government to claim him as a French citizen in a State such as Morocco, where Germany enjoys extra-territorial jurisdiction in matters affecting Germans.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS BERTIE.

[39233] No. 60.

Sir E. Goschen to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received November 10.)

(No. 65.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Berlin, November 10, 1908.*

CASA BLANCA incident.

Arbitration Agreement is at this moment about to be signed by French Ambassador, who has just informed me of the fact. Agreement will not enter into details, but will express mutual regret for occurrence of incident.

I also understood from the French Ambassador that, in addition, the party against whom the arbitration is given is to undertake to express regret for the proceedings that led to the decision.

[39270] No. 61.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received November 11.)

(No. 454.)
Sir, *Paris, November 10, 1908.*

THE news telegraphed from Berlin that the Imperial Government have decided to agree to submit to arbitration the question of facts as well as the question of right arising out of the incident of the deserters at Casa Blanca, and have changed their attitude respecting the form in which the regrets for the incident at Casa Blanca are to be expressed, has been received by the French press with every sign of satisfaction. Extracts from the official statement in the "North German Gazette" and the semi-official explanations of the German change of front in the "Cologne Gazette" are

reproduced by the more important Paris papers. M. Lautier, writing in the "Figaro," states that he is able to guarantee that the new German Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs has accepted the formula of regrets proposed by M. Jules Cambon with the introduction of the word "subalternes," so that it now runs as follows :—

"Les deux Gouvernements regrettent l'incident du 25 Septembre qui a amené leurs Agents subalternes à des voies de fait et à de fâcheuses violences."

M. de Kiderlin-Waechter, so M. Lautier states, asked that a second sentence should be added to the following effect :—

"Chacun des deux Gouvernements s'engage à exprimer des regrets à l'autre, selon la décision de l'Arbitre."

The two negotiators are to refer to their respective Governments, and M. Lautier anticipates that no further difficulty will arise in agreeing on a formula satisfactory to both parties.

The "Temps" publishes a slightly different formula to that given by M. Lautier. It is as follows :—

Les deux Gouvernements, regrettant les événements qui se sont produits à Casa Blanca le 25 Septembre dernier et qui ont amené des Agents subalternes à des violences et à de fâcheuses voies de fait, décident de soumettre l'ensemble des questions soulevées à ce sujet à l'arbitrage.

"D'un commun accord, chacun des deux Gouvernements s'engage à exprimer ses regrets sur les actes de ces Agents, suivant le jugement que les Arbitres auront porté sur les faits et sur la question de droit."

The impression gained from a perusal of the French papers this morning is that all sections of opinion are perfectly aware of the fact that the change of front on the part of Germany is in fact a complete retreat from her former position, and constitutes a diplomatic success for the French Government and a considerable satisfaction for the *amour-propre* of France. The press has shown throughout the discussion of this incident remarkable unanimity in supporting the attitude of the Government, and in advocating a calm but firm refusal of the renewed demand put forward by the German Ambassador at Paris that France should express regret for the action of her military authorities, while Germany should do the same as regards that of her Consulate at Casa Blanca. In the course of the past week the analogy between the situation immediately preceding the retirement from office of M. Delcassé and the present moment has not infrequently been mentioned in the press, and the attitude adopted by M. Clemenceau is favourably compared to that of the French Cabinet in 1905.

There can be no doubt that M. Clemenceau and M. Pichon have had the cordial approval of public opinion in France and that their attitude has strengthened their position and increased their prestige. It is likely that this fact will be evident in the forthcoming debate in the Chamber of Deputies on Moroccan affairs, which was to have taken place immediately after the reassembly of the Legislature on the 13th October, but which was postponed at the request of M. Pichon until a Yellow Book in course of preparation should have been laid before Parliament.

The satisfaction felt in France at the *détente* in the situation and the prospect of a settlement consonant with French dignity is also shown by a certain disposition to give credit to the German Government for not adopting an unyielding attitude. The "Figaro," for instance, acknowledges that the weight attached by the German Foreign Office to the report communicated to them within the last few days of M. Dorbé, French Commissioner of Police at Casa Blanca, and the attention paid to his statements with regard to the occurrences there are acts *de bonne foi et de bonne volonté* which must be noted with pleasure in France.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS BERTIE.

[39381] No. 62.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received November* 12.)

(No. 455.)

Sir, *Paris, November* 11, 1908.

N my despatch No. 454 of yesterday I had the honour of transmitting to you two versions of the formula of regrets said to have been agreed on between the French and German Governments. The one published in the "Figaro" under the authority of M. Lautier ran as follows :—

"Les deux Gouvernements regrettent l'incident du 25 Septembre qui a amené leurs Agents subalternes à des voies de fait et à de fâcheuses violences. Chacun des deux Gouvernements s'engage à exprimer des regrets à l'autre, selon la décision de l'Arbitre."

It was evident that if the French had consented, as represented by M. Lautier, to refer to "leurs Agents subalternes," the wording would have included French subordinate Agents, and would have been a concession to German demands. The correct text, however, is that given in the "Temps," which speaks of "des Agents subalternes," which does not necessarily refer to French Agents, and is as follows :—

"Les deux Gouvernements, regrettant les événements qui se sont produits à Casa Blanca le 25 Septembre dernier et qui ont amené des Agents subalternes à des violences et à de fâcheuses voies de fait, décident de soumettre l'ensemble des questions soulevées à ce sujet à l'arbitrage.

"D'un commun accord, chacun des deux Gouvernements s'engage à exprimer ses regrets sur les actes de ces Agents, suivant le jugement que les Arbitres auront porté sur les faits et sur la question de droit."

I congratulated M. Pichon this afternoon on the termination of the difference. He said that it would have been closed some time ago if there had been any direction at Berlin, or if the German Embassy had been allowed to settle it with the French Government. It was impossible to know from one day to the other what the German Government wanted. Their attitude was constantly changing.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS BERTIE.

[39611] No. 63.

Mr. White to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received November* 14.)

(No. 283.)

Sir, *Tangier, November* 8, 1908.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a summary of events in Morocco for the past week.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 63.

Summary of Events for the week ending November 7, 1908.

THERE has for some time past been considerable unrest in the district of Melilla, where the aggressive conduct of the Roghi has been a source of much anxiety to the surrounding tribes. The latter have now, it appears, combined to raise a force of some 2,000 men in the name of Mulai Hafid, with which it is proposed to effect the capture of the Roghi, or at least to drive him from the neighbourhood.

It is reported that Kaïd Glawi is on bad terms with Kaïds Aissa and 'Mtougi, about whose loyalty to Mulai Hafid considerable doubts appear to be entertained. Kaïd Glawi himself is believed to be still faithful to the new Sultan.

Unofficial reports have reached Tangier to the effect that the young Kaïd Anflus, who on the death of his father succeeded as Kaïd of the Mogador district, has been attacked by some former enemies of his father and taken prisoner. It is expected that

reprisals are certain to be made by his own tribe, which will not conduce to the restoration of order and tranquillity in that part of the country.

Cid Mokri is still at Fez, where he is said to have been very well received by Mulai Hafid, who it is believed will confer on him some important appointment, possibly the post at present held by Cid Guebbas.

The appointment of Ben Said, referred to in Mr. White's despatch No. 261 of the 22nd ultimo, as Moorish Commissioner for Foreign Affairs, has now been confirmed. He is to call officially on all the Legations accompanied by Cid Mokri.

Mr. Madden reports from Casa Blanca that the house at present occupied by the Casa Blanca Claims Commission is to be given to the late Sultan. A new house will be appropriated for the Commission.

It has recently been estimated that some 11,000 French troops remain in the country; the greatest number that have been here at any given time is 17,000, but a considerable number have now been repatriated, while others have been sent back to Oran.

(Initialled) F. R.

[39782] No. 64.

Mr. Lister to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received November* 14.)

(No. 67.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, November* 14, 1908.

RECOGNITION of Mulai Hafid.

Mr. White's despatch No. 277 of the 31st ultimo.

All the Powers with the exception of Sweden, Italy, and Portugal have notified to the acting doyen their adhesion to the Franco-Spanish note. Sweden is here represented by the German Legation

The opinion is generally held by my colleagues that the note should not be presented by the doyen, but should be transmitted in the form of a letter. I share this view, and the French Minister has reported in this sense to the French Government. The Portuguese Minister, who is the doyen of the Corps Diplomatique, is expected to return before long, but M. Regnault deprecates any further delay, as he fears that unless France and Spain take some action at once they may be forestalled by Germany. Should M. Martens Ferrao not return in a few days, M. Regnault would propose addressing a joint communication with M. Merry del Val to the acting doyen, requesting him to transmit the Franco-Spanish note to Mulai Hafid.

[39836] No. 65.

Sir E. Goschen to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received November* 16.)

(No. 491.)
Sir, *Berlin, November* 11, 1908.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 65 of yesterday, I have the honour to report that the following is the text of the Agreement with regard to the recent Casa Blanca deserters incident which was signed at the Foreign Office yesterday :—

"The German and French Governments regret the events which took place at Casa Blanca on the 25th September last, and which gave rise to the exercise of force and to aggressive acts on the part of subordinate officials. They have decided to submit all the questions which have arisen in this connection to a Court of Arbitration. By mutual agreement each of the Governments bind themselves to express their regret at the conduct of these officials, according to the decision which the Arbiter shall give on the question of fact and of law."

The German papers this morning generally express their relief and satisfaction at the announcement of this solution of the incident. The "Berliner Lokal Anzeiger," which is occasionally made use of by Prince Bülow for the purpose of explaining the Government's action or policy, publishes the following apparently inspired account of the final stage of the negotiations from the German point of view.

There was from the very first, the article maintains, a difference between the two Governments regarding the legal aspect of the incident, but since the exchange of the circumstantial reports it has transpired that considerable differences as to the facts of the case also existed. The original German demand that France should, as a preliminary to arbitration, express her regret at the attack upon the German Consular

[39782] No. 65*.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Lister.

(No. 37.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, November* 16, 1908.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 67, I concur in proposed communication to acting doyen by French and Spanish Ministers should Portuguese Minister not return in time.

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officers was based upon the assumption that the French Government did not deny that such an attack was made. When, however, a perusal of the French case showed them that the facts set forth therein upon this point did not correspond with those stated in the German versions, the Imperial Government were compelled to recognize that the declaration demanded would in a certain sense prejudice the arbitral decision. The misunderstanding on this point might have been removed sooner, it is added, had the Imperial Foreign Office been placed in earlier possession of the French case.

In view of the desire of the German Government, which was also shared by the French Government, to settle the matter formally as quickly as possible, the two Governments decided to draw up the above-quoted Agreement, which it is hoped will have proved satisfactory to both parties. The German nation can now await the verdict of the Arbiter with equanimity; whatever form it may take, it will now no longer cast any shadow upon the good relations of the two countries.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. E. GOSCHEN.

[40335] No. 66.

Mr. Lister to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received November* 18.)

(No. 68.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, November* 18, 1908.

THIS morning the foreign Representatives agreed that the text of the Franco-Spanish note should be inclosed in a letter to be addressed by the Belgian Minister (Acting Doyen) to Mulai Hafid.

The letter will be handed to El Guebbas to-morrow morning with the request that it may be sent on to Mulai Hafid without delay.

[40606] No. 67.

Sir M. de Bunsen to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received November* 21.)

(No. 154. Very Confidential.)
Sir, *Madrid, November* 10, 1908.

ON his way through Madrid to take up his post at Tangier, Mr. Reginald Lister was received in audience on the 7th instant by the King of Spain, and he has been good enough to leave with me the private Memorandum herewith inclosed in copy, giving an account of his conversation with His Majesty.

After expressing suspicion of the attitude and aims of the German Emperor in the present European crisis, the King repeated to Mr. Lister the assurance he has often given me that the foreign policy of Spain rests on friendship with England and France. It was easier to maintain this relation with the former than with the latter country. But still, there was agreement with France in essentials. It was over matters of detail, arising especially out of the contact between the Spanish and French troops at Casa Blanca, that friction continued to arise. The King dwelt on the weakness of the Spanish position in Morocco as compared with that of France, owing to the relative poverty of Spain, but he claimed that Spaniards were more popular in that country than their rivals.

This is a point often dwelt on by Spanish statesmen, the truth being no doubt that Spain, being less feared than France by the Moors, owing to her stationary position along the northern coast of Morocco, where she has made no advance in the course of several centuries from her small strongholds by the sea, is also naturally less disliked than her more powerful and aggressive rival.

I have no doubt that Mr. Lister's promise to the King to do his best to reduce friction, and to bring about more cordial co-operation between France and Spain in Morocco, will help to remove an impression which exists in His Majesty's mind, and to which I have alluded in my Confidential despatch No. 109 of the 14th August, 1908, that British policy in Morocco takes too little account of Spanish aspirations in that

country. I have myself always combated this view, and, indeed, it is sufficiently refuted by the insistence of His Majesty's Government on France making an Agreement with Spain, as one of the conditions of the Anglo-French Agreement of 1904.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MAURICE DE BUNSEN.

Inclosure in No. 67.

Memorandum by Mr. Lister.

(Private.)

THE King of Spain, whom I have had the honour of knowing personally for several years, sent for me last night and talked to me for nearly an hour. He began by asking me what I thought of the Emperor's latest exploit. It seemed like the act of a madman, and yet, he said, he could not help fearing that it was intentional, and that the Emperor desired to provoke a war. His position in his own country was seriously compromised owing to his failures and mistakes, the Eulenberg scandals, &c. The army was getting sick of his bombastic and warlike speeches, which so far had proved meaningless, and the country could not bear for long the burden of taxation entailed by the proposed increase of the fleet and the maintenance of a huge army.

I remarked that I should have thought that both as regards the army and the fleet it was to the interest of Germany to wait. I understood that the manœuvres this year had not been particularly brilliant. The French had a remarkable gun, and the relative strength of the German fleet as compared with our own must, I imagined, be greater in a few years' time. The King said that his private opinion now was that the French army was every bit as good as the German, and their artillery decidedly better. He would, however, like to see us land a force, say, of 50,000 men in France, to fight beside them, for moral rather than material reasons. They would steady the French soldiers and show them how to go into battle. I could not help saying that the experience of the Napoleonic wars had shown that the French knew how to fight, and that even in 1870 the troops, especially the African regiments, though destitute of all that was necessary for success, had fought heroically.

His Majesty then proceeded to give me an account of the "tricks," as he called them, which the Emperor had recently tried to play upon him with the intention of raising the suspicions of France.

He had some time ago accepted an invitation to shoot at Prince Pless' during his stay in Germany. A few days before the date fixed for the visit he received a message from the Emperor saying that he had no idea that he was coming to Prussia (this the King said was untrue, as he had specially told Radowitz of his intention), and that he hoped very much that he and the Queen would come to Potsdam to "grüssen" their cousins, as he had recently been to England. This sounded plausible enough, but the two situations were perfectly different. In England he was paying a visit to his mother-in-law; he saw the King at Cowes and shot with him at Sandringham, but he had not gone to England for the express purpose of seeing the Sovereign, which he would have done had he gone to Potsdam. Germany would have made the most of his visit at Paris, and his position there would have suffered. This took place at the moment of the outbreak of the crisis in the Near East. The King, not wishing to be mixed up in the machinations of the German Emperor, made up his mind to *couper court*, sent to say that his Government required his presence, gave up the Pless visit, and returned to Spain. He also told me that when in Saxony the King had told him that he was to be given the Colonelcy of a Hussar regiment. On pressure, however, from Berlin, this had been changed to a Uhlan regiment, which was exactly what he wanted to avoid; the name had become synonymous in France with the Prussian invaders, and could only recall the regrettable incident of which his father had been the victim. This was evidently realized in Dresden, as the King of Saxony always spoke of the regiment as Lancers, not Uhlans. The word "Uhlan," however, was carefully used in the Berlin telegrams to Paris. His Majesty had been so irritated at these two attempts at treachery that on his return journey viâ France he had made a special point of seeing the President and M. Pichon, which was not necessary at that moment.

The cardinal point of Spanish policy, he said, was friendship with England and France; one had only to look at the map to realize this. The former was easy enough, for it coincided with his strongest personal feelings; the latter was possibly less congenial, but just as necessary, and he was determined to adhere faithfully to it. In Morocco, he said, in all essentials he had nothing to complain of at the hands of France,

although in matters of detail Spain, and above all the Spanish troops, were continually being subjected to vexatious treatment; the situation of the latter at Casa Blanca had been specially difficult, and he deplored the acts of cruelty committed by the French soldiers, the authenticity of which, unfortunately, he could not doubt.

I said that of course a close co-operation between France, Spain, and England was the corner-stone of the policy to be followed by the three Governments in Morocco; that the French fully realized this, and that, having discussed Morocco affairs in Paris during the last three years, I could assure His Majesty that the French Government were most anxious to co-operate loyally with Spain. The vexations of which he complained were, I felt sure, often to be attributed to want of tact or local ambitions and jealousies. I added that when, on the 3rd instant, I saw M. Clemenceau to say good-bye, he had spoken in the very highest terms of the wise influence exercised more than once by His Majesty on the action of his Government, and of the breadth and clearness of his views. The King admitted again that in the big things he had not much to complain of.

Spain, he went on to say, must, of course, always be at a disadvantage in Morocco as compared to France on account of her want of money. Whenever capital was wanted France could find it, which Spain could not. At the same time he was convinced that the Spaniards were far more popular in Morocco than the French, and he was doing all he could by attracting Moors to Spain to draw closer the bonds that united the two races, and, by increasing their intimacy, to extend their relations. On one point Spain could never yield, namely, that of her possessions on the northern coast of Africa. Nothing would ever make her give them up. It was his firm intention to do all in his power to develop these Settlements by means of commerce and the peaceful arts; military force at the present moment could not be employed, although he would not recoil before such a step were it to prove necessary in the future. I said that I hoped for his sake that this might never prove the case, as the experience of the last 400 years had shown that all forcible attempts to permanently occupy the country made from the north or west were doomed to failure.

His Majesty spoke in the highest terms of his Minister in Tangier, M. Merry del Val, and said he was sure we should make great friends. He had known him for years, having as a boy learnt English from him, and he could vouch for his absolute straightness. He was, moreover, a thorough man of the world, and held broad views. In reply to a question whether he got on well with his French colleague, His Majesty said, "Pretty well." M. Regnault at moments was difficult to get at, and *boutonné*.

I said that, as His Majesty knew, we were bound by our engagements to support France in Morocco, and we should always do so. We considered, however, that the cordial co-operation of France and Spain was absolutely essential, and I should do my utmost to remove any causes of friction which might arise between the Spanish and French Representatives. I looked on this, in fact, as one of the most important of my duties, and I was very glad to have heard the Spanish point of view from His Majesty's lips.

The King said he was very anxious before long to visit the Spanish possessions on the northern coast of Africa, and, once there, he would be tempted to come on *incognito* to Tangier and "see how I was getting on," although it might be rather difficult to do this at the present moment. I said that, delighted as I should be to see His Majesty, I could not help thinking that it would be rather risky for him to come. The French, I feared, would not realize how very harmless the object of his visit was, and might think that he was trying to steal a march upon them. The King laughed, and my impression is that he was not speaking seriously.

In the course of our conversation His Majesty told me that he did not care much for M. Révoil, that he considered him *louche*, and that he had never ceased regretting M. Jules Cambon. On several occasions the latter had had disagreeable things to say to him, but he had always been straight and above-board, and he very much preferred his methods to those of the present Ambassador.

Madrid, November 8, 1908.

[40618] No. 68.

Mr. Lister to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received November 21.)

(No. 286.)

Sir, *Tangier, November 15, 1908.*

AS I had the honour to report in my telegram No. 67 of yesterday's date, Count Buisseret, who, in the absence of the Portuguese Minister, M. Martens Ferrao, is acting as doyen of the Corps Diplomatique, has now received notification of adhesion to the Franco-Spanish note with regard to the recognition of Moulai Hafid from the Representatives of all the Powers with the exception of Portugal, Italy, and Sweden, the latter being represented at Tangier by Germany.

For the reasons reported by Mr. White in his despatch No. 277 of the 31st ultimo, the general impression of my colleagues has for some time been that the note should be sent in the form of a letter, and not presented by the doyen, the German Representative himself having come round to that view when he realized that M. Martens Ferrao, and not as he hoped M. de Buisseret would be charged with the Mission. I fully share this view, and the French Minister has reported in that sense to his Government. M. Regnault told me, however, yesterday that he was anxious that M. Martens Ferrao should not be led to believe that it was his influence that had brought about the change; he had heard privately that M. Ferrao was much gratified at the prospect of his Mission, and as he had always proved an excellent friend to France, he was most anxious that his feelings should not be hurt. He considered now that, even if he wanted to, he would be unable to induce his colleagues to agree to the Mission.

I observed to M. Regnault that so far, we, as representing Portugal, had received no instructions to inform the acting doyen of her adhesion to the note. He replied that this might possibly be intentional, in order to have M. Martens Ferrao more time to return. He was at present at Paris, and expected here shortly, but he considered that further delay was to be deprecated, for, unless some steps were taken without loss of time by France and Spain, there was considerable risk of their being forestalled by Germany.

He then read to me a telegram he had received from his Government, which he had not as yet communicated to his Spanish colleague, suggesting that now that the adhesions had been received, a joint communication should be addressed by him and M. Merry del Val to the doyen, requesting him to have the note transmitted to Moulai Hafid. I am expecting to hear from M. Regnault what has been decided.

I am informed that news has reached El Menebhi from a good source at Fez to the effect that Moulai Hafid, alarmed by events in Southern Morocco, intends moving to Rabat very shortly, and this news has been confirmed through another channel.

El Menebhi is of opinion that should anything happen in Morocco City the people of Fez will turn against Moulai Hafid as readily as they did against Moulai Abdelaziz, and that the situation there will be worse than ever before.

Kaïd-el-Glawi has written to El Menebhi to say that he is preparing to send a force to subdue the Seraghna tribe, who are still hostile to Moulai Hafid, and proposes, after their subjugation to go himself to settle terms with them. He will then join Moulai Hafid at Fez.

El M'tougui and Aissa-ben-Omar continue to work together and appear to have quite broken with Kaïd Glawi.

Great uncertainty still exists as to the real intentions of Kaïd Aissa, who is known to be sending large sums of money to Moulai Hafid, but so far shows no intention of going to Fez. This uncertainty, taken in conjunction with El M'Tougui's known hostility to Moulai Hafid, would be quite sufficient to give rise to the rumours alluded to in Mr. White's despatch No. 276 of the 31st ultimo, and to cause Moulai Hafid to hasten his departure from Fez.

His Majesty's Consul at Casa Blanca has reported that he learns on good authority that some of the principal Moors at Morocco City are corresponding with Moulai Abdelaziz, asking him to come up there.

I have, &c.

(Signed) REGINALD LISTER.

[40756] No. 69.

Mr. Lister to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received November 22.)

(No. 69.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, November 22, 1908.*

MENEBHI has been requested by the French Minister to prepare his country house outside Tangier for the use of Abd-el-Aziz, who is expected from Casa Blanca in a few days. It is desired to keep his arrival quite secret, and the French Minister only told Menebhi in strict confidence. Menebhi has agreed to French Minister's wishes, but is informing Mulai Hafid.

[40779] No. 70.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received November 23.)

(No. 510. Confidential.)

Sir, *St. Petersburgh, November 6, 1908.*

ALTHOUGH a considerable time must necessarily elapse before this despatch reaches your hands. I venture to report, for the purposes of record, the observations which M. Isvolsky made to me yesterday in regard to the differences which have arisen between France and Germany in connection with the recent incident at Casa Blanca.

On my visiting M. Isvolsky yesterday, to inquire whether he had any news to give me before the departure of my messenger, his Excellency said that he had some very grave news to impart to me, and which was troubling him exceedingly. It appeared that the negotiations which were proceeding between the Governments of France and Germany had suddenly entered upon an unexpected and serious phase. When he was last in Berlin he had understood that all was proceeding smoothly, and since then he had gathered that both Governments had agreed to submit to arbitration both the legal and the material aspects of the question. There was a divergence of opinion both as to what had actually occurred, and also in regard to various legal points. To his surprise he had now learnt that the German Government had apparently suddenly altered their attitude, and, while being prepared to submit the legal points to arbitration, had demanded that France should apologise for the action of her officers and officials, and should liberate the deserters. He had also been informed that the German Government intended, should these demands not be granted, to instruct Prince Radolin to depart from Paris on unlimited leave of absence. M. Pichon, he understood, had replied that the French Government were always ready to submit both parts of the question to arbitration, but until the Arbitration Court had found that the French officials were to blame they were unable to accede to the demands of the German Government.

M. Isvolsky considered that the position in which the question was now placed was an exceedingly serious one; and it appeared to him as if the Emperor was anxious to divert public attention from what might be termed the "Daily Telegraph" incident, and to go almost as far as initiating a quarrel with France. His Majesty was no doubt in an irritable mood, and he knew that recently His Majesty had spoken very strongly as to his being hemmed in and encircled, and that if this were to continue he would break through even at the risk of war with all the world. At the same time M. Isvolsky was of opinion that the present moment was, perhaps, the most disadvantageous possible for Germany to enter into a conflict. Since 1902, or 1903, the obligations imposed on Italy by the Triple Alliance had been much restricted, and she was no longer bound to place, as heretofore, 100,000 men on the Rhine. Her responsibility was not limited to a purely defensive attitude; and in the event of a conflict between France and Germany she would probably remain neutral. Austria-Hungary was concerned with Balkan affairs, and if hostilities broke out there would, in all probability, be a Slav uprising which would largely occupy her attention. What would be the attitude of England, as much would depend on that? Could I tell him?

I said that, of course, I could only speak as a private individual, but I should imagine that if the difference between France and Germany entered upon an acute phase, my Government would do all in their power, by diplomatic means, to bring about a peaceable arrangement, and to avert a catastrophe; but that if their efforts were to fail, and war were to ensue, I could not answer for what my countrymen

might do. I thought it very possible that, if Germany were to enter into what would be considered as an unprovoked conflict with France, my countrymen would range themselves on the side of France, and support her. At the same time I doubted if the German public would permit the Emperor to land them in a war; and although they were a well-disciplined people, they had recently shown that they were not disposed on all occasions to be unduly submissive. I could hardly imagine that the German Emperor would be prepared to face a combination of France, Russia, and possibly England.

M. Isvolsky said that he had the most serious misgivings, and inquired whether I had received any news on the subject. I replied in the negative. He said that he would be much obliged to me if I would tell you that he was much preoccupied with the situation, and that he would be glad if I could ascertain the views of my Government and communicate them to him.

M. de Panafieu, the French Minister, came to see me to-day, and told me that under instructions from his Government he had communicated at 11 P.M. on the 3rd instant to M. Isvolsky a detailed exposition of the whole affair, and also the demands of the German Government, as presented by Prince Radolin, and with the text of which you have doubtless been made acquainted. M. Isvolsky considered that the matter was so serious that he requested the chief of the staff to visit him, and both he and General Palitzin proceeded to M. Stolypin's residence, where they remained in consultation till 4 A.M. M. de Panafieu thought that no further developments would occur till the return of the German Emperor to Berlin, when a final decision would be taken by the German Government.

M. Tcharykoff told me this evening that from a telegram which had been received from M. de Nelidoff, it would appear that there were hopes in Paris that the question would receive a pacific solution; and he remarked that it was fortunate that the public was not aware of the text of the demands communicated by Prince Radolin, as they were couched in a form which closely resembled an ultimatum.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

[41031] No. 71.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received November* 24.)

(No. 477.)
Sir, *Paris, November* 23, 1908.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith copies of the Yellow Book just published by the French Government respecting Moroccan affairs. It consists of 469 documents, covering the period from the 12th October, 1907, to the 14th October, 1908, and deals with the various questions with which French diplomacy has been occupied during that period, with the exception of the incident of the deserters at Casa Blanca, as to which no papers are now published.

I would draw your attention to the account of an interview between the French Ambassador at Berlin and Prince Bülow on the 30th March last (p. 188). Prince Bülow told M. Cambon that he could not repeat too often what he had already said to him at Norderney. The commercial question in Morocco was the only one which preoccupied the German Government, the only one which stirred public opinion, and the only one which might raise difficulties between the two countries. Germany had had such an enormous economic expansion during the last thirty years that any impediment to commercial liberty seemed to her difficult to bear. He pointed out to M. Cambon that the tendency of French policy with regard to French colonial possessions was to shut out foreigners. England's tendency was, on the contrary, to show a liberal spirit in economic matters, which had had a favourable result in her colonies, and he drew his Excellency's attention to the fact that practically all the speakers in the Reichstag had been the mouthpiece of German commercial grievances. It was his conviction that if German commerce had had during the past year or eighteen months no grievances to complain of the French Government would have had no difficulties in Morocco. M. Jules Cambon observed, in reply, that German trade at Casa Blanca had been on the increase.

The "Temps" publishes a leading article on the Yellow Book, approving M. Pichon's policy in his attitude towards European Powers in any negotiations respecting Moroccan affairs. On the other hand, the policy of the French Government in Morocco itself is sharply criticized as weak and incoherent, and is summed up as

resulting in the abandonment of Abdul Aziz and capitulation before Mulai Hafid. The Government, the article states, refused to listen to the unanimous advice of their Agents in Morocco, and allowed Mulai Hafid to grow in power instead of crushing him in time.

This criticism is the usual one made by the "Temps," which has consistently advocated a more forward policy in Morocco than was favoured by the Government or approved by the Chamber.

The "Journal des Débats," on the other hand. writes in an approving manner as to the restraint shown by the Government in resisting all temptation to take sides in the internal conflict between Mulai Hafid and Abdul Aziz.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS BERTIE.

[41165] No. 72.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received November* 25.)

(No. 478.)
Sir, *Paris, November* 24, 1908.

THE correspondent of the "Matin" at Berlin has telegraphed to his paper an account of an interview which he had yesterday with Herr von Kiderlen-Waechter, the German Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Herr von Kiderlen-Waechter is represented to have stated that he considered the Casa Blanca incident as closed. The Arbitration Court would now decide the question, and the two countries would accept its decision. He continued: "But a lesson may be drawn from this incident, namely, that matters of this kind should above all be dealt with between diplomatists who are capable of discussing them with the necessary moderation, in order to avoid creating an excitement in the press and public opinion. It seems to me that the French press took this affair *au tragique* it was not one likely in the opinion of the two Governments to have grave consequences. We have never followed an aggressive policy, and yet our good faith is constantly being questioned. You in France believed, for instance, that we wanted to play a double game with Mulai Hafid, that we demanded his instant recognition, whereas we merely expressed the desire that he should be recognized. You must surely admit that it was a natural desire seeing that he was already *de facto* sovereign, and that his recognition assured peace in Morocco." "It is the same thing in the Balkans" continued Herr von Kiderlen-Waechter, "where we are suspected of dark plots, while our action is limited in reality to defending our economic interests, and to giving our allies the support which they are entitled to expect from us. As both Germany and France have only economic interests involved, there should be no divergences between them of a serious nature."

Herr von Kiderlen-Waechter added that the so-called internal crisis in Germany had been greatly exaggerated at home, and even more abroad. The question which was for the moment occupying attention was financial reform.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS BERTIE.

[41268] No. 73.

Mr. Lister to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received November* 25.)

(No. 70.) *Decode.*
(Telegraphic.) *Tangier, November* 25, 1908.

MULAI HAFID was proclaimed at Casa Blanca yesterday after departure of Abd-el-Aziz, who landed privately at Harris Villa on French launch at 5·45 this morning.

[41470] No. 74.

Mr. Lister to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received November* 27.)

(No. 71.)
(Telegraphic.) *En clair.* *Tangier, November* 27, 1908.

MOULAI MOHAMMED was proclaimed Sultan yesterday at Kasbah Skrirat, small town between Buznika, which is limit of French zone, and Rabat. French Consul at latter port reports all is quiet there.

[41478] No. 75.

Mr. Lister to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received November* 28.)

(No. 288.)
Sir, *Tangier, November* 16, 1908.

EL MENEBHI called upon me this morning and after an exchange of complimentary phrases we settled down to a discussion of the situation.

I pointed out to him how desirable it was in the general interest that Moulai Hafid should accept at once the conditions laid down in the Franco-Spanish note which might be expected to reach him very shortly. By doing so he would regularise his position as Sultan, and make it far more difficult for Abd-el-Aziz to make any move towards recovering his lost position. As long as matters remained in their present undefined state, he (Abd-el-Aziz) must, willingly or not, always constitute a centre for disaffection. At present, moreover, Moulai Hafid was surrounded by undesirable persons of various nationalities, who stuffed him with erroneous ideas and impressions, with the sole object of furthering their own dubious aims and ambitions. El Menebhi assured me that Moulai Hafid was fully alive to these considerations, and was continually urging him to spare no pains to induce the Foreign Representatives to quicken the pace, and send him up the note, which he would sign at once without raising any difficulties. He had, he said warned Moulai Hafid more than once against the various concession hunters who surrounded him, and had tried to make him realize that he might some day have to pay dearly for the promises he had made them.

El Menebhi also told me that he had recently received urgent letters from Moulai Hafid for transmission to Kaïd Glawi, the Grand Vizier, begging him to return at once to Fez. I asked whether this was with a view to leaving him in charge of his interests in the capital, should he be obliged, as was rumoured, to leave for the south, but Menebhi answered in the negative; on the contrary, he said, he wished to take Kaïd Glawi with him, for he was a strong man and inspired him with confidence and courage. El Menebhi hopes very much that the Kaïd will obey the summons, as his presence at the Court will go far towards counterbalancing the effects of the German propaganda now in full swing, to which Moulai Hafid had been somewhat inclined to listen of late. Although he fully recognizes that he can look for no material assistance from Germany, yet he has to some extent fallen a victim to the specious argument that the friendship of Germany must be quite disinterested owing to the very fact that she has no real interests in Morocco and wants nothing.

El Menebhi told me confidentially that for some time after the arrival of Moulai Hafid at Fez, a steady correspondence went on between him and the German Minister; this he knew for a fact, as Moulai Hafid's letters were all sent to him sealed, for delivery to Dr. Rosen.

El Menebhi had learnt that morning from the son of an important official, who had just arrived from Fez, that Moulai Hafid had invested Moulai Abdsalam-el-Marani with his seal as Viceroy of Fez. As you may recollect it was he who was Viceroy up to the time of Moulai Hafid's entry into the capital. He, however, fell into disgrace after the latter's proclamation as Sultan. Menebhi appeared to think that Moulai Hafid could count upon his loyalty were he to leave Fez for Rabat.

Though speaking with great loyalty of the French El Menebhi said that he could not conceal from me that they had made many blunders and missed many opportunities. It appears that Moulai Hafid on his arrival at Mequinez had written to El Menebhi, asking him to endeavour to come to terms with the French Minister, and promising to do anything that the French might ask, on condition that they withdrew their support from Abd-el-Aziz. M. Regnault replied that he could not take the responsibility for such a step upon himself, but that he would telegraph at once to his Government and let El Menebhi have a definite answer within eight days. Nothing more, however, was heard

of the matter for a fortnight, when M. Regnault came to Menebhi and proposed to him that he should accept the post of Grand Vizier under Abd-el-Aziz, who was prepared to offer it to him. El Menebhi was amazed and told M. Regnault that things had gone much further than he evidently realized, and that it was far too late to think of taking office under Abd-el-Aziz, who was master only of Rabat, whereas Moulai Hafid had been proclaimed Sultan throughout the country. Had the French accepted Moulai Hafid's proposals at that time, Menebhi said, their position would have been a very strong one in Morocco, and they could practically have dictated the line of policy which they desired.

I said that I felt sure that the action of France had been prompted by feelings of loyalty to the Powers and to the Moors themselves. So long as Abd-el-Aziz remained Sultan they had not thought it right to take so strong a step as that desired by Moulai Hafid, which constituted a direct intervention in the internal affairs of Morocco, and might have given legitimate ground for suspicion to other Powers.

Menebhi said that might be so, but that the result was none the less regrettable. M. Regnault, he said, had always been strangely optimistic as to the eventual success of Abd-el-Aziz. He had, moreover, invariably placed confidence in agents who reported to him in that sense, and had ignored the opinions of those who had a far wider knowledge of the true wishes and intentions of the Moorish people, and who sought to give him disinterested advice.

Our conversation then turned to the part that Moorish affairs had been made to play in European politics, and I was glad to find that Menebhi fully realized that the main importance of Morocco to Germany lay in the fact that she could always be made use of as a means of creating difficulties with France. I alluded briefly to the long series of instances of *mauvaise volonté* and bad faith on the part of Germany, of which I had been a personal spectator during my residence in Paris ever since the fall of M. Delcassé, the result of which had been to throw France more than ever into the arms of England. El Menebhi appeared quite *au courant* of European politics; there was, he said, no doubt that the French now had absolute confidence in the loyalty of our support, although for the first year or two after the conclusion of the *entente* that had not been the case, and he had often seen signs of it in his conversations with M. de Saint-René Taillandier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) REGINALD LISTER.

[41479] No. 76.

Mr. Lister to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received November* 28.)

(No. 289.)
Sir, *Tangier, November* 20, 1908.

I HAVE learnt confidentially that Menebhi has received a letter from Moulai Hafid proposing the instant dismissal of El Guebbas, at present Commissioner for Foreign Affairs, the reason given being the determined opposition shown by the latter to his candidature for the throne. It is also possible that the measures taken by El Guebbas to prevent the proclamation of Moulai Hafid at Tangier, which were deeply resented by the people of this town, may have something to do with the proposal. There is no doubt of his unpopularity in Tangier, where his peculations are notorious, and the belief exists amongst the more educated classes that when he was employed on the Algerian Boundary Commission he sold the interests of his country to the French.

El Menebhi has replied discouraging the step, at all events until after Moulai Hafid has agreed to the Franco-Spanish note and regularized his position as Sultan.

El Guebbas' son, who is now at Fez, was told some little time ago to return to Tangier and assist his father in his duties; but by the light of Moulai Hafid's letter to Menebhi this evidently was only a ruse to get rid of him. He is said to have offered 10,000 dollars for the post of Governor of Tangier, and a promise was given to him that the matter would be considered.

El Menebhi is of opinion that, once the note is signed, both father and son will be dismissed, if, indeed, the latter has obtained the post he covets before then.

The French will probably be displeased at the dismissal of El Guebbas, whom they consider as devoted to their interests and a useful tool, and much will depend on the choice of his successor. He is, of course, only Commissioner for Foreign Affairs, the Minister residing at Fez, but it is of great importance that the post should be held by a man of a *coulant* disposition.

I understand that Moulai Hafid has again quite recently reproached Menebhi with refusing to take office; on previous occasions Menebhi has dismissed the idea as quite out of the question, but this time he has merely replied that he thought that the moment had not yet come to consider it. He is, of course, an intimate friend of the Grand Vizier, El Glawi, and it is possible that after Moulai Hafid's recognition he may reconsider his decision.

Anywhere but in Morocco one would undoubtedly wish to see Menebhi Minister for Foreign Affairs. He is far more enlightened and open-minded than other Moors; he is energetic and honest, and his strong personality imposes itself on his Sovereign and his colleagues. His appointment, moreover, would be a triumph for Anglo-French policy. But in this country one is always faced with the difficulty that the Minister for Foreign Affairs resides at Fez, and that he is only represented at Tangier by a Commissioner. Were Menebhi to become Minister for Foreign Affairs, we should cease to be in contact with him, and the advantages of his personality would be lost. On the other hand, were he to accept the post of Commissioner for Foreign Affairs (and I am told that it is not impossible, as it is well paid and Menebhi is extravagant), his absence from the capital would expose him to the intrigues of his enemies at the Court. So long as El Glawi, who is a strong man, remained Grand Vizier he might be able to disregard them, but Imperial favour in Morocco is capricious, and political existences are uncertain. Were he to fall, his fall would be relatively far greater than had he remained in his present somewhat vague position, and his disappearance would be disastrous to European interests in Morocco.

I have, &c.
(Signed) REGINALD LISTER.

[41480] No. 77.

Mr. Lister to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received November* 28.)

(No. 290.)

Tangier, November 20, 1908.

Sir,

I HEARD indirectly a few days ago that Mulai Hafid had agreed to give 7,000*l.* a-year to Abd-el-Aziz. This news has since been confirmed by Menebhi, who tells me that he (Mulai Hafid) proposed that a steward should be appointed to manage his brother's affairs and supervise his expenditure, any surplus that remained over at the end of the year being paid back to the Makhzen.

Menebhi has written to Mulai Hafid expressing his approval of the appointment of a factor, but deprecating the idea of repayment at the end of the year. When once the sum was fixed it was far better that it should be simply paid over to Abd-el-Aziz, and that he should be allowed to spend it as he thought best.

Menebhi is convinced that Abd-el-Aziz has considerable sums of money deposited with one of the officers of the late French Military Mission at Fez.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. LISTER.

[41481] No. 78.

Mr. Lister to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received November* 28.)

(No. 291.)

Tangier, November 19, 1908.

Sir,

AS I had the honour to report in my telegram No. 68 of yesterday's date, it was decided at the meeting of the foreign Representatives held in the morning that the acting doyen should address a letter to Mulai Hafid, inclosing the text of the Franco-Spanish note, and that this letter, dated the 18th instant, should be handed this morning to El Guebbas by Count de Buisseret for transmission to Mulai Hafid.

The meeting was called on account of a divergence of opinion that had arisen between certain of the foreign Representatives as to the form of presentation. The French Minister was of opinion that the note should be converted into a letter to Mulai Hafid, as being more courteous; the German Minister, on the contrary, thought that the note should simply be handed to El Guebbas for transmission to Mulai Hafid. In this case no alteration would have to be made in the text accepted by the Powers, and the difficulty of the title to be given to Mulai Hafid would be avoided. There appeared to me to be some force in Dr. Rosen's argument, and I went round to see

M. Regnault on the subject. He told me that the last instruction he had received from his Government said specially that the note was to be presented "sous forme de lettre"; that the Russian Minister, who was absent for a few days, had agreed to this procedure, and that he thought it better to adhere to it. As it was a mere formality, and arguments could be produced on both sides, I agreed to support his view.

M. Regnault was not well enough to be present at the meeting, but after a good deal of perfectly friendly discussion, the arrangement described in my telegram was come to. The question of the titles to be given to Mulai Hafid was also carefully considered, and the letter was finally drawn up in the following terms:—

A l'auguste, victorieux, et éclairé, très élevé Prince Chérifien Moulai Hafid, proclamé Sultan par tous les peuples de l'Empire du Maroc, de la part des Puissances Signataires de l'Acte Général d'Algésiras, je, soussigné, Envoyé Extraordinaire et Ministre Plénipotentiaire de Sa Majesté le Roi des Belges, en qualité du Doyen du Corps Diplomatique, ai reçu la mission honorable de transmettre, en réponse à la communication du 9 Chaaban, 1326 (correspondant au 6 Septembre, 1908), la note dont voici le texte."

The text then follows, and the letter concludes with the phrase, "Que le Tout-Puissant vous garde en honneur et en paix. Fait à Tanger le 18 Novembre, 1908 (correspondant au 23 Choual, 1326)."

Signed: "L'Envoyé Extraordinaire et Ministre Plénipotentiaire de Sa Majesté le Roi des Belges."

A copy of the letter was handed to El Guebbas, who went so far as to say that, were it not given to him, he would be unable according to Moorish etiquette to forward the letter to Mulai Hafid. This seemed a strong order, but it was decided to accede to his request in order not to lose more time.

I have, &c.
(Signed) REGINALD LISTER.

[41482] No. 79.

Mr. Lister to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received November* 28.)

(No. 292.)

Tangier, November 22, 1908.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a summary of events in Morocco during the past week.

I have, &c.
(Signed) REGINALD LISTER.

Inclosure in No. 79.

Summary of Events for the week ending November 20, 1908.

IN view of the tension which is reported to exist between the French and Spanish military authorities at Casa Blanca, it is interesting to note the great cordiality which prevailed at the recent investiture of General d'Amade with the Grand Cross of the Spanish Order of Military Merit. The investiture, which took place on the 14th instant, was made the occasion of a remarkable demonstration of friendship between the French and Spanish troops. After a review and march past, in which the Spanish native police were allowed to take a prominent part, the French troops were entertained at dinner in the Spanish camp, when speeches of great cordiality were made. To judge from the great care with which the Spanish Commander sought to impress the general company present with the warmth of the reception accorded to the French by the Spanish troops, it would appear that considerable importance had been attached to a demonstration of the friendly relations existing between the two forces.

On the 17th instant 150 Spanish soldiers were invited to dinner in the French lines, in return for the hospitality shown to the French on the 14th. At this entertainment the prevailing note was no less hearty than on the previous occasion. Subsequently, the Spanish officials dined in camp with the French General, speeches being made by the General, the Spanish Commander, and Consul.

Rumours of various appointments by Mulai Hafid continue to arrive. Raisuli is

reported to have been named Kaïd of nine tribes extending from Arzila to the north bank of the River Likkus, and east of that line, including Alcazar. Remiki is said to have purchased the Governorship of Tlig. This appointment would appear to be extremely unpopular with the people of that district, who are reported to have sacrificed to the Court at Fez and to the Diplomatic Corps in Tangier, in order to have the appointment annulled.

Mohammed Tazzi, a brother of the two mentioned in despatch No. 295, has requested Menebhi to intercede with Mulai Hafid on his behalf. It will be remembered that the Tazzi family were among Menebhi's bitterest enemies, but the latter has consented to inform Mulai Hafid of Mohammed Tazzi's overtures, without, however, going so far as to afford them his personal support.

[41483] No. 80.

Mr. Lister to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received November* 28.)

(No. 293.)

Sir, *Tangier, November* 23, 1908.

IN continuance of my despatch No. 289 of the 20th instant, I have the honour to report that the appointment of El Guebbas' son as Basha of Tangier has been officially confirmed, and he is expected to arrive at Tangier to-day. The appointment has caused general dissatisfaction. His moral character is of the lowest; he is a drunkard, and smokes hashish. It is, moreover, notorious that he bought the post. Menebhi, however, told me last night that he had information from the Court that the appointment was only a temporary one. It is to be hoped that it is so, as the position created in Tangier will be a very difficult one, the only appeal from the acts of the son being to the father, whose venality is proverbial.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. LISTER.

[41484] No. 81.

Mr. Lister to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received November* 28.)

(No. 294.)

Sir, *Tangier, November* 23, 1908.

MENEBHI informed me last night that he had heard from a reliable source at Court that Mulai Hafid had the intention of coming to Tangier in the near future, and that he had sent out two of his Kaïds, the head of his stables, and the head of his tent-pitchers, to collect forces in the Gharb and the Beni Hassan districts to accompany him.

The great Southern Kaïds have let Menebhi know that they will not go up to Fez till after the next feast (in about six weeks' time), but of course El Glowi had not at that moment received Mulai Hafid's last urgent summons (see my despatch No. 288 of the 16th instant).

Aissa Ben Omar has asked to be relieved of his functions as Minister for Foreign Affairs, on the plea that a life spent as Governor of a province had not fitted him for his present duties.

I have, &c.
(Signed) REGINALD LISTER.

[41485] No. 82.

Mr. Lister to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received November* 28.)

(No. 295.)

Sir, *Tangier, November* 23, 1908.

AS I had the honour to report in my telegram No. 69 of the 22nd instant, Menebhi was informed last week by the French Minister that Abdul Aziz would arrive at Tangier early this week. M. Regnault at the same time requested Menebhi to place his country residence, about 2 miles from the town, on the mountain, temporarily at the disposal of the ex-Sultan. Menebhi consented to do this, but in order to avoid complications with Mulai Hafid, sent up at once to Fez to apprize him of the fact. The whole thing is to be kept a profound secret.

Menebhi came to the Legation last night and told me that the "Gibel Dersa," the steamer which plies between Gibraltar and Tangier, had been chartered to convey Abdul Aziz to Tangier to-morrow, and that he would go straight up to the mountain. The two Tazzi brothers, who have remained absolutely identified with Abdul Aziz to the last, have, at the advice of M. Regnault, retired momentarily to Algeciras. Ben Sliman, his last Grand Vizier, has made his peace with Mulai Hafid, and is leaving for Fez.

The Tazzi brothers, notwithstanding the fact that they were mainly instrumental in bringing about his downfall, have implored Menebhi to intercede for them with the Sultan, and with great magnanimity he has promised to do so.

I have, &c.
(Signed) REGINALD LISTER.

[41616] No. 83.

Mr. Lister to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received November* 28.)

(No. 72.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, November* 28, 1908.

PROCLAMATION of Moulai Mohammed.

I was assured last night by Menebhi that for the present no importance need be attached to Proclamation of Moulai Mohammed which formed subject of my immediately preceding telegram. At the same time the situation might become serious for Moulai Hafid were Moulai Mohammed to receive the support of the Southern Kaïds, whose conduct has recently been mysterious. Supernatural powers are commonly attributed to Moulai Mohammed, and he enjoys greater popularity than any of the other brothers.

[41624] No. 84.

Mr. Lister to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received November* 29.)

(No. 73.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, November* 29, 1908.

THE capture of Moulai Mohammed has been effected by strategem. He was lodged in the Palace at Rabat, and was yesterday sent as a prisoner to Fez.

[41630] No. 85.

Sir E. Goschen to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received November* 30.)

(No. 507.)

Sir, *Berlin, November* 24, 1908.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 65 of the 10th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy and translation of the Franco-German Arbitration Agreement respecting the recent Casa Blanca incidents, as signed here to-day at the Imperial Foreign Office by Herr von Kiderlen-Waechter and M. Cambon and published in the "North German Gazette" of this evening.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. E. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 85.

Franco-German Arbitration Treaty respecting the incidents at Casa Blanca.

(Translation.)

THE Imperial German Government and the Government of the French Republic, having agreed on the 10th November, 1908, to submit all the disputed questions which have arisen as a result of the events which occurred at Casa Blanca on the 25th September of this year to a Court of Arbitration, the following Treaty of Arbitration has been drawn up by the Undersigned, who have received the requisite authority for this purpose:—

ARTICLE 1.

A Court of Arbitration, formed in accordance with the regulations given below, is charged with the decision of the questions of fact and right which arose on the 25th September last between officials of both countries at Casa Blanca.

ARTICLE 2.

The Court of Arbitration shall consist of five Arbitrators, who are to be chosen from the members of the Permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague.

Each Government will choose two Arbitrators as soon as possible and within two weeks at the latest, counting from the day on which this Treaty of Arbitration is signed; only one of these Arbitrators may be a subject of the Government appointing them. These Arbitrators will elect an Umpire within two weeks after their nomination has been communicated to them.

ARTICLE 3.

On the 1st February, 1909, each party will deliver to the Bureau of the Permanent Court of Arbitration eighteen copies of their Case, with a certified copy of all papers and documents to which they wish to refer during the course of the proceedings. The Bureau will immediately see that they are passed on the Arbitrators and the parties, each Arbitrator receiving two copies and each party three copies. Two copies remain in the archives of the Bureau.

On the 1st April, 1909, the parties will deposit in the same manner their replies, with the necessary documents and their conclusions.

ARTICLE 4.

Each party must deposit at the latest on the 15th April, 1909, at the International Bureau, the sum of 3,000 Dutch florins as an advance towards the costs of the arbitration expenses.

ARTICLE 5.

The Court of Arbitration will meet on the 1st May, 1909, at The Hague, and immediately begin the examination of the dispute.

It is authorized, in as far as it judges it advisable, to remove temporarily to another place, or to send one or more of its members there, in order to institute inquiries there in accordance with Article 20 of the Agreement of the 18th October, 1907, for the peaceful settlement of international disputes.

ARTICLE 6.

The parties may use the German or French languages.

The members of the Court may, according to their choice, make use of German or French. The decisions of the Court will be drawn up in both languages.

ARTICLE 7.

Each party will be represented by a special agent, whose duty it is to act as an intermediate person between the party and the Court. These agents will give any information that the Court requires of them; they may produce the legal help which they deem useful for defending their case.

ARTICLE 8.

So far as they do not conflict with anything in the present Arbitration Treaty, the provisions of the above-mentioned Agreement of the 18th October, 1907, which, although not yet ratified, has been signed both by Germany and France, shall be applicable to this arbitration.

ARTICLE 9.

After the Court of Arbitration has decided the questions of fact and law laid before it, it will lay down regulations in agreement therewith regarding the fate of the persons arrested on the 25th September last, in so far as there is any dispute about them.

[42241] No. 86.

Mr. Lister to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received December* 3.)

(No. 74.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, December* 3, 1908.

ACCORDING to information received by the French Chargé d'Affaires, the reply of Mulai Hafid to the note sent up by the doyen left Fez on the 29th ultimo. M. de Sainte-Aulaire has obtained a copy of it privately. He tells me that the style is very confused. The note makes certain reserves as to the Government debts, but practically accepts the important points.

[42390] No. 87.

Mr. Lister to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received December* 5.)

(No. 296.)
Sir, *Tangier, November* 26, 1908.

AS I had the honour to report in my telegram of yesterday's date, Moulai Hafid was proclaimed Sultan at Casa Blanca on the 24th instant. His Majesty's Consul at that port reports that about 100 of the leading citizens, including the Umana, Adouls, Kadi, and the principal Fez merchants, were summoned to the house of Moulai l'Amin, who informed them that Abd-el-Aziz having been rendered powerless, Moulai Hafid was now Sultan in his place. The following day was fixed for writing the formal documents of proclamation, and couriers were sent off to Moulai Hafid at at Fez with the news of his proclamation. Moulai l'Amin did not allow criers to be sent out, and warned those present to make no display or disturbance. The Viceroy had a prayer said for Moulai Hafid, and gave orders that he should be referred to in the usual way, and that a special "Fatha" should be drawn up for use in the mosque next Friday. There was, of course, no salute, as all the Moorish guns were thrown down in the bombardment and during the subsequent events.

Abd-el-Aziz left for Tangier on the morning of the 24th, on board the British steam-ship "Magnus," the "Gibel Dersa" not being available. He was accompanied by two of his women, a cousin of somewhat feeble intellect, and M. Gaillard, French Consul. The boat anchored at Tangier at 2·30 A.M. on Wednesday, and shortly before 6 the ex-Sultan and his companions went on shore in two French boats at Mr. Harris' villa, where, as arranged with the French Minister, Mr. Harris and Menebhi were waiting to receive them. Otherwise there was nobody present, as, in order to avoid the possibility of a demonstration, it had been officially announced that Abd-el-Aziz would land at 11 o'clock and be received by the authorities of the town.

Mr. Harris called on me yesterday afternoon and gave me an account of how it all passed off. Menebhi, he said, showed signs of considerable nervousness, being quite in the dark as to how he would be received; this was, however, quickly dispelled, for Abd-el-Aziz, on landing, at once threw himself into his arms. He had, he said, been wondering during the whole of his journey who would receive him, and had hoped against hope that it might be Menebhi, though he fully realized the delicacy of the latter's situation *vis-à-vis* to Moulai Hafid. Had he not come, he said, he would not have felt the courage to go on, and would have returned to Casa Blanca. Both men were deeply moved, and Abd-el-Aziz proceeded to beg Menebhi to forgive him for the way he had treated him; his brain, he said, must have been diseased, but he was thankful to think that before his fall he had made the only amends possible and restored to him by Firman his confiscated properties. This Menebhi had told me of already a week ago, and on Tuesday last, the day before Abd-el-Aziz' return, he sent round the Firman in question to the Legation for safe keeping, and in order that we might bear witness that it had been granted some time before, and not extorted at the moment of Abd-el-Aziz' return to Tangier.

The two women were sent up at once to Menebhi's house on the mountain, and Abd-el-Aziz, his cousin, Menebhi, and Mr. Harris repaired to the latter's villa for breakfast. Abd-el-Aziz was served at a small table, but allowed Mr. Harris to remain in the room while he ate, thus indicating that he intended in future to dispense with the ceremonial observed with a Sultan.

After the first emotion of his meeting with Menebhi had passed off he quite recovered his spirits, and showed great interest in everything he saw. He also freely discussed the events of the last few months. He had, he said, passed through some moments of great bitterness, and had suffered acutely under the slights inflicted upon him by former sycophants, which had brought home to him the change in his position. Now that was over he had accepted the situation, and his feelings were only those of relief; the burden of responsibilities, too heavy for him to bear, had been lifted from his shoulders, and he could now begin to enjoy life. Moulai Hafid, he said, appeared to possess the qualifications for governing the Moors which he had lacked; in the matter of money, to start with, he had evidently realized that they respected a Sultan who squeezed them. Moulai Hafid was filling his coffers, whereas he had only succeeded in emptying them. He was, moreover, a hard man, and would not shrink before cruelty. He saw now clearly the mistakes he had made. He had driven from him the few true friends he had—Menebhi in the front rank—and had surrounded himself with self-seeking traitors. He had realized it all too late, and when he left Rabat for Marakesh he felt certain that the expedition must end in disaster or assassination. Among that vast throng who rode out with him there were probably only two men on whom he could count, Sergeant Balding and Dr. Verdon. Of the latter he spoke in the highest terms, contrasting his disinterested devotion with the treachery of others who had battened on his favours and enriched themselves at his expense. Mr. Harris says that he appeared very much disinclined to see the French Minister, but I understand that it was eventually settled that he should receive him yesterday afternoon.

After remaining a few hours at Mr. Harris' villa, he rode by a circuitous route to Menebhi's house on the mountain, laughing and talking the whole way. It appears that on the road he met a small Mehalla of Moulai Hafid's troops; the last few men recognised him, and the whole force at once dismounted and threw themselves to the ground on their faces, imploring the blessing of God upon him. He was, I understand, much gratified at this small demonstration.

In the afternoon Mr. Irwin, at my request, went to see Menebhi, who confirmed in the main what Mr. Harris had told me. It appears that Abd-el-Aziz' shameless *entourage* have been draining him for money up to the very last. Only two days before he left, Ben Sliman had come whining to him, and he had given him 600*l.*, which he could ill spare, to enable him to make the pilgrimage. On reaching Tangier he ascertained that the whole story was an invention, that Ben Sliman had made his peace with Moulai Hafid, that he never had any idea of going to Mecca, and that he was starting at once for Fez.

Menebhi said that Abd-el-Aziz attributed all his misfortunes of the last few years to the fatal advice of M. de Saint-René Taillandier. Several years ago he had practically made up his mind to make a clean sweep of the Ben Sliman Guebbas gang, but the French Minister had spoken so strongly and so continually in their favour that he had at last yielded and abandoned his intention. This would account for his disinclination to see M. Regnault.

Menebhi told Mr. Irwin that although Abd-el-Aziz might recognise certain unpleasing qualities in Moulai Hafid, which fitted him for governing the Moors, he felt very bitterly his treatment of him, which he characterised as rank treachery. He had heaped favours upon him in the past, and it had been entirely due to him that he had been appointed Viceroy of Marakesh, and had consequently found himself in a position to raise the standard of revolt.

Abd-el-Aziz evidently clings now to Menebhi, and can hardly bear him out of his sight. My only fear is that he may compromise the latter's position with Moulai Hafid. At any rate, we may count upon his enemies making as much capital out of it as they can. Menebhi has written to Moulai Hafid explaining the situation. He has pointed out that the effect would have been deplorable had Abd-el-Aziz been allowed to land entirely alone, without a house of any sort to go to; and, moreover, if left to himself he would very probably have been got hold of by dangerous persons, who would have attempted to make use of him as a centre for intrigue.

I have, &c.
(Signed) REGINALD LISTER.

[42391] No. 88.

Mr. Lister to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received December* 5.)

(No. 297.)

Sir, *Tangier, November* 27, 1908.

I AM informed confidentially by Menebhi that Guebbas has received two rather severe shocks during the last few days. In the first place an emissary has been sent down by Mulai Hafid to make an inventory of all the guns, rifles, ammunition, &c., at Tangier, and hand them over to Raisuli for transmission to Fez. This not only constitutes a grave slight for Guebbas, but will also put the money which will no doubt be made out of the job into Raisuli's pocket instead of into his. Secondly, instructions have been sent to the Moorish High Commissioner of the State Bank that no money is to be paid out on orders signed by Guebbas. All orders in future to be signed by Mulai Hafid.

I understand that the old gentleman is so seriously upset that he has taken to his bed.

Commandant Fournie, when he heard the news, expressed great delight to Mr. Irwin, as he said that Guebbas' appropriation of funds destined for the army, which had been a perfect scandal, would be considerably checked by this latter measure.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. LISTER.

[42392] No. 89.

Mr. Lister to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received December* 5.)

(No. 298.)

Sir, *Tangier, November* 27, 1908.

IN continuation of my despatch No. 296 of yesterday's date, I have the honour to report that the French Minister came to see me yesterday afternoon. He seemed satisfied with his interview with Abd-el-Aziz, and had been struck with the dignity of his attitude. He said, however, that he appeared to him very sad; that the tears were continually in his eyes; and that he said he was longing for rest and retirement in a house of his own, surrounded by his family. M. Regnault is inclined to think he will buy some land and build a house to suit his requirements, rather than buy any of the houses that have been proposed to him—Mr. Harris', Mr. Perdicaris', &c. Should he do this, he asked whether M. Regnault thought there would be any objection to his continuing to live at Casa Blanca, at the Dar Maghzen, while the building was going on.

M. Regnault then told me that he was most anxious that Abd-el-Aziz should not feel that he was being treated in any way like a pariah, and had proposed to him to come and pay a visit to the French Legation. Abd-el-Aziz had appeared slightly surprised at first, but much pleased, and arranged to go there this afternoon. The party was to be kept very small and private, and M. Regnault asked me whether it would interest me to come and meet him. I said that I was glad of the opportunity to discuss that point with him. I had heard from Menebhi that Abd-el-Aziz had asked a great deal about me, and that he had also said he would like very much to see Mr. White and Mr. Irwin, both of them old friends.

M. Regnault proposed that we should all three come and meet him at the French Legation, but, on consideration, I have come to the conclusion that this might be misinterpreted, and that, by a little clever distortion of the facts, the Germans might make capital out of it with Mulai Hafid. M. Regnault agreed that it would perhaps be more prudent for me not to go, and I have told Mr. White and Mr. Irwin that they had better arrange privately, through Menebhi, about paying their respects to the ex-Sultan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. LISTER.

[42393] No. 90.

Mr. Lister to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received December 5.)

(No. 299.)

Sir, *Tangier, November 29, 1908.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a Report containing a summary of events that have occurred during the past week.

I have, &c.
(Signed) REGINALD LISTER.

Inclosure in No. 90.

Summary of Events for the Week ending November 28, 1908.

HIS Majesty's Consul at Casa Blanca reported on the 24th instant that Mulai Mehemmed had on the previous day left that town for Fez, viâ Rabat, to join Mulai Hafid, and it would appear that when camped near Rabat some of the tribes in that district seized the opportunity to proclaim him Sultan. No importance, however, was ever attached to this spontaneous manifestation of a few unimportant tribes, as were he not supported by the powerful southern Kaïds any attempt on his part to secure the throne would be foredoomed to failure. The Rabat authorities acted promptly and energetically, and sent out a few horsemen, who brought him into Rabat without resistance. The French authorities at Casa Blanca, fearing that some such manifestation might be made, and anxious to avoid its occurrence in the sphere of their influence, gave him an escort of a squadron of Spahis as far as Busnika, and it was only at Skhirat that the incident occurred. In connection with this it is curious to note that there were rumours to the effect that Mulai Mehemmed had had a special royal seal made for himself before he left for Rabat. It is more than probable, however, that this is the last that will be heard of him for some time.

Mr. Madden also reports the founding of a French newspaper at Casa Blanca. It is named "La Vigie Marocaine," and is stated to be conducted in the defence of French interests and for the extension of French influence in Morocco. The Director is a certain M. Houel, who rendered himself conspicuous at the time of the French operations in the Showia, by going up to Mulai Hafid at his camp south of the River Oom Rabia.

News from Southern Morocco is to the effect that the three great southern Kaïds of those regions are actively engaged in extorting all the money they can from their respective tribes; there is said to be some secret understanding among them, the precise object of which is, for the present, surrounded in mystery. It is thought, however, that it bodes little good to the cause of Mulai Hafid, as, notwithstanding repeated summonses to proceed to Fez, they show a marked disinclination to do so, and under various pretexts excuse themselves from joining Mulai Hafid for the present.

Persistent rumours are current here that Raisuli has received the Governorship of the Fahs, although nothing is known officially to confirm them. In any case the mere rumour has been sufficient to bring out the latent hostility of all classes to such an appointment. Raisuli, by his past treatment of the tribe, has incurred the enmity of the whole district over which he is reported to have been named Governor. As an index to the depth of this feeling, the action of the heads of the Tangier District "Gaish" (yeomanry) is worthy of note. These men, all of standing in the tribe, yesterday sacrificed sheep before each of the Legations, at the office of the Sultan's Commissioner, at Menebhi's door, and at the doors of the local press; and wrote letters protesting against his appointment, and there is little doubt, should the appointment be confirmed, that the general discontent will take some more serious form, as threats are being made in various quarters against Raisuli, should he take up the post.

There is no question that Mulai Hafid is alienating all sympathy from his cause by these appointments to the highest bidders without reference to their suitability, and whereas Tangier was a short time since one of the most loyal portions of the Empire, ominous murmurs are now being heard here about his selfish policy, and the possibility of another claimant coming forward to dispute the throne with him is being somewhat freely discussed.

Letters just received from His Majesty's Consul at Casa Blanca report that the Act of Allegiance has been drawn up by the Kadi, and the principal Moors have been notified that they must sign it. It is expected that the document will be ready and

sent to Fez, accompanied by the usual presents, in about ten days' time. The proclamation of Mulai Hafid went off very quietly, and was only known to very few. No salutes were fired, owing to the town guns having been dismantled at the time of the bombardment, and Mulai L'Amin again enjoined the Notables of the town that it was not desirable that any demonstration should be made over the signing of the Act of Allegiance.

A. I.

Tangier, November 29, 1908.

[42508] No. 91.

Mr. Lister to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received December 6.)

(No. 75.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, December 6, 1908.*

THE doyen to-day communicated to the Diplomatic Body the reply of Mulai Hafid to the note of the Powers.

Mulai Hafid, in his reply, states that having carefully examined the points raised in the note he accepts them; but, while accepting the responsibility for the debts, he points out the necessity of investigating and verifying them, and practically asks to be allowed a free hand in dealing with those persons who were responsible for incurring the debts, and who he says shared the money obtained and employed it for their own ends. The investigation would, he says, be conducted on strictly equitable lines, and he trusts that the Powers will refrain from any intervention on their behalf.

All debts owing to private individuals will also be discharged after examination and proof of the validity of the claims.

As regards the claims of France and Spain for military expenditure, the somewhat vague phrase is used that, "All will go well if God wills it."

In conclusion, the letter states that good organization and the maintenance of order are his sole objects.

[43304] No. 92.

Mr. Lister to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received December 12.)

(No. 301.)

Sir, *Tangier, December 5, 1908.*

MENEBHI sent me a message a few days ago to the effect that he had just received two letters from Mulai Hafid. The first was an acknowledgment of his letter reporting that, at the request of the French, he had put his house at the disposal of Abd-el-Aziz for a short time. Mulai Hafid expressed his approval of this arrangement, but the letter was worded in such a way as to make it appear that Menebhi had asked for permission to act as he suggested, and that it had been granted. Mulai Hafid added that he had taken note of a declaration made by Menebhi that he declined all responsibility for Guebbas' future acts in connection with public funds (see my despatch No. 297 of the 27th ultimo), and that he had lent a favourable ear to his intercession on behalf of the Tazzis (see my despatch No. 295 of the 23rd ultimo). They could, he said, come up to Fez and make their peace with the Makhzen.

The second letter inclosed an open letter for Abd-el-Aziz, which opened with a severe scolding for his former follies and his want of forethought when Sultan. Mulai Hafid went on to say that he fully recognized the bonds of brotherhood which united them, and that he had expected and hoped that Abd-el-Aziz would join him and take up his residence at the capital, in the house of his ancestors. Should he elect to do so, he promised him that the treatment which he would receive would exceed his highest expectations. At the same time, he need not feel bound to adopt this course, and he was at liberty to act otherwise if he preferred. Mulai Hafid also stated that he agreed to the proposed terms of settlement regarding Abd-el-Aziz's allowance, these terms being that he should receive 7,000*l.* a-year and a small portion of the jewellery, and that he should keep the personal properties left by Mulai Hassan.

Menebhi said that he proposed to keep back the letter to Abd-el-Aziz, as he considered that the scolding which it contained was ill-timed and ungenerous—a real case of hitting a man when he is down. He had, he said, every intention of telling Mulai Hafid that he had done so, and of stating the reasons for his action.

Menebhi told Mr. Irwin the other day that he had for a short time incurred the

displeasure of Mulai Hafid for looking too much after the interests of Abd-el-Aziz. A message to that effect had been conveyed to him through some of the Court officials by Mulai Hafid's instructions. Menebhi said that this was a matter of complete indifference to him; that he wanted nothing from Mulai Hafid; and that in acting as he had done he considered that he had merely fulfilled an obvious duty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) REGINALD LISTER.

[43305] No. 93.

Mr. Lister to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received December 12.)

(No. 302.)
Sir, *Tangier, December 5, 1908.*

IN continuation of my despatch No. 296 of the 26th ultimo, I have the honour to report that Abd-el-Aziz left Tangier for Casa Blanca on the 30th ultimo to fetch his family and household, and may be expected to return in the course of next week. The ex-Sultan travelled as an ordinary first-class passenger on a French mail steamer. Before leaving, however, he asked the French Minister to place a French man-of-war at his disposal for his return journey, but M. Regnault considered that there were grave objections to such a course (the question of salutes, &c.), and got Menebhi to explain to Abd-el-Aziz that it was out of the question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) REGINALD LISTER.

[43306] No. 94.

Mr. Lister to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received December 12.)

(No. 303.)
Sir, *Tangier, December 6, 1908.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the usual summary of events in Morocco for the past week.

I have, &c.
(Signed) REGINALD LISTER.

Inclosure in No. 94.

Summary of Events for Week ending December 5.

THERE is but little of importance to record during the past week. No development has taken place in the situation in the south, where the attitude of Kaids Glawi, Aissa, and 'Mtougui remains uncertain. Rumours continue to arrive to the effect that a large force is being assembled by these three Kaids, but little light has been shed upon the object for which it is to be employed. At the same time it appears that a considerable sum of money has been forwarded to Fez by Kaïd Glawi, which should go far to maintain the latter in favour at Court.

In Moorish circles doubts are entertained as to the genuineness of the ovation accorded to Moulai Mohammed on leaving the territory of the Shawia. It is believed that this outburst of enthusiasm for the latest candidate for royal honours was organized by agents of Moulai Hafid, with the double object of preventing Moulai Mohammed from traversing on his way to Fez, the territory of tribes notoriously favourable to his cause, and at the same time of justifying his arrest in the eyes of those who might hold that Moulai Hafid ought to show greater clemency towards his brother than was accorded to the latter by Abd-el-Aziz.

It is reported from Fez that a force has been hastily collected and been dispatched to the north-east in order to operate against the Pretender El Roghi, who has taken refuge in that district.

With regard to the cousin, or uncle, of Abd-el-Aziz, reported by Mr. Lister in his despatch No 296 of the 26th ultimo, to have accompanied the ex-Sultan to Tangier, it

appears that a proposal has been made to Moulai Hafid that he should instruct him to proceed without delay to Fez. He is apparently a man of very bad character, and his doings here have caused considerable indignation amongst the better class of Moors. It is considered that an effort should be made to withdraw him from Abd-el-Aziz, upon whom it is feared that he may exercise a very injurious influence.

[43307] No. 95.

Mr. Lister to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received December 12.)

(No. 304.)
Sir, *Tangier, December 6, 1908.*

A PERSISTENT rumour was current in Tangier during the early part of last week to the effect that Raisuli had been appointed Governor of the Fahz in addition to the nine tribes which had already been placed under his rule as reported in the weekly letter inclosed in my despatch No. 292 of the 22nd ultimo. It was also stated that in order to obtain the post he had renounced British protection.

No official confirmation of the rumour has been received, but it was generally believed in Tangier and the neighbourhood, and produced a feeling of uneasiness almost amounting to panic. A protest signed by the Notables of the district was addressed to each one of the foreign Representatives, sacrifices of sheep were offered up at the gates of the various Legations, and even the press were begged to take the matter up!

On Thursday, however, all was changed by a report published in the "Dépêche Marocaine" that Raisuli had been arrested by Mulai Hafid's orders. This report, like its predecessor, remains unconfirmed; in fact I am assured that Raisuli has left Fez for Tangier. Moreover, according to the latest information that I received from Menebhi, Raisuli appeared all-powerful in the councils of Mulai Hafid, and his advice was taken by him on every subject. Were he to be appointed, I cannot help thinking that we should find a very different man from the Raisuli of two years ago. Arbitrary and despotic he doubtless will always remain, but not as he was before, when his avowed intention was to create difficulties for the Makhzen. At the same time it must always be remembered that the Moorish mentality differs absolutely from our own; their vanity and love of despotic power are unbounded, and I am told that examples are not wanting of Moors who have thrown away all the solid advantages which they may have gained for the sake of exercising for a brief period the right to compel homage and inflict punishment.

Should Raisuli be given the post, notwithstanding the formal stipulation made to the Makhzen in December 1906 by the Representatives of all the Powers that he should be definitely removed from the Province of Tangier, I would venture to suggest that no time should be lost in insisting upon the repayment by the Moorish Government of the 20,000*l.* advanced by His Majesty's Government for the ransom of Kaïd Maclean.

I have, &c.
(Signed) REGINALD LISTER.

[43308] No. 96.

Mr. Lister to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received December 12.)

(No. 305.)
Sir, *Tangier, December 6, 1908.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 75 of to-day's date, I have the honour to inclose the French translation, made by the Dragomans of the various Legations, of the reply which Mulai Hafid has sent to the note of the Powers forwarded to him by the acting doyen of the Corps Diplomatique.

The letter was intrusted to a Shereef, accompanied by five mounted men, and took seven days to arrive, but, as I had the honour to state in my telegram No. 74 of the 3rd instant, the French Chargé d'Affaires had already received a copy of it, and one other copy at least has been going the rounds of Tangier for the last three days. I believe that my German and Spanish colleagues also had copies.

The French Chargé d'Affaires told me confidentially yesterday that this was not the original reply; that the tone of the first one had been far less conciliatory, and

that it had been altered at the instance of the French Agent at Fez. M. de Saint-Aulaire added that the whole thing may have been a *coup monté*, to give the French the idea that Mulai Hafid had at the outset made concessions to please them.

The reply appears to me and to my colleagues to be satisfactory, and I cannot help thinking that Mulai Hafid, whilst assuming the responsibility of the debts, is justified in reserving to himself the right to come down for payment upon the persons "who divided the money amongst themselves and used it for their own commercial affairs." The last two words are an exact translation from the Arabic, and, in the opinion of the foreign Representatives who met this afternoon, the phrase is taken to mean all persons who misappropriated money and used it for their own ends; the use of the word "commercial," however, is rather curious. The Tazzis, I imagine, are the persons chiefly aimed at, and in this connection I have just heard that a Jew, acting on their behalf, has presented himself at Casa Blanca with an order signed by Abd-el-Aziz to hand over to him the Government stables at that port.

I am told by Mr. Irwin that the expression used in connection with the claims to be put forward by France and Spain, "all will go well," is very vague in Arabic, and may mean much or nothing at all. I mentioned this both to my Spanish and French colleagues, but although they admitted the correctness of the observation, they neither of them appeared disposed to take the matter up.

I have, &c.
(Signed) REGINALD LISTER.

Inclosure in No. 96.

Mulai Hafid's Reply to the Note of the Powers.

Louange à Dieu seul : il n'y a de Puissance et de force qu'en Dieu très haut et très grand.

(Grand sceau de Muley Abd-el-Hafid Ben-el-Hassan.)

A l'ami intelligent et de bon conseil qui recherche le bien des deux Gouvernements amis et puissants, le Ministre du Gouvernement respecté de Belgique et doyen de l'honorable Corps Diplomatique à Tanger le bien gardé, M. le Comte Conrad de Buisseret.

APRÈS avoir adressé à Dieu, qui assure la réussite des projets, toutes les louanges qui lui sont dues, nous avons reçu la lettre par laquelle vous exposez les intentions des Puissances amies signataires de l'Acte de la Conférence d'Algésiras en ce qui concerne leur espoir que notre Majesté, élevée par Dieu, reconnaîtra à accepter, vis-à-vis d'elles, les points contenus dans la dite lettre, transmise par votre intermédiaire au nom de toutes les Puissances.

Nous avons pris connaissance de tout ce que contenait cette lettre, et nous avons pris bonne note de toutes ses indications expresses et sous-entendues. Nous avons examiné avec attention les points qui s'y trouvent consignés, et nous les avons acceptés par respect pour l'accord intervenu à leur sujet entre les Puissances amies.

En ce qui concerne la reconnaissance des dettes, il importe d'attirer l'attention des Puissances amies sur la nécessité de vérifier ces dettes et d'en connaître la base. En effet, le droit international impose à cet Empire la responsabilité de ces dettes.

Mais il est également certain que les coutumes, lois, et statuts de cet Empire exigent que la responsabilité de ces dettes retombent sur des personnes qui s'étaient partagé l'argent en question et s'en étaient servi pour leurs affaires commerciales; ceci est clair comme le soleil qui luit sur la terre et n'a pas besoin d'être démontré.

En conséquence il est de notre devoir d'accepter la responsabilité des dettes mentionnées, de même que nous devons exercer recours contre ceux à qui il faut les réclamer. Nous espérons que les Puissances amies n'interviendront d'aucune façon en leur faveur dans les décisions que nous prendrons. L'enquête à ce sujet sera faite avec l'équité qui nous est également demandée pour ce qui concerne leurs droits, car la justice doit suivre son cours.

De même, après examen des titres relatifs aux créances des particuliers, après s'être reporté aux circonstances dans lesquelles elles ont été contractées et après avoir constaté leur origine, leur cause et leur emploi, conformément aux principes établis

dans des cas analogues, le Maghzen est prêt à acquitter, avec l'aide de Dieu, toutes celles des créances dont la validité aura été reconnue conformément au droit.

Quant aux dépenses militaires des deux Puissances amies, la France et l'Espagne, lorsque celles-ci nous les auront fait connaître, tout ira bien à cet égard s'il plaît à Dieu.

Nous avons pleine confiance en ce que toutes les Puissances amies qui se sont mises d'accord pour envoyer à notre Majesté la note en question, après en avoir adopté les points, respecteront les dispositions relatives à nos intérêts particuliers et généraux que ces Puissances se sont accordées à reconnaître par l'Acte de la Conférence. Nous n'avons d'autre but que le maintien de l'ordre général et la bonne organisation des affaires en les préservant par des moyens équitables, de ce qui peut les troubler.

Puissiez vous rester tous en paix.

Fait le 4 Kaada sacré, 1326 (29 Novembre, 1908).

[43770] No. 97.

Sir M. de Bunsen to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received December* 15.)

(No. 176.)

Sir, *Madrid, December* 12, 1908.

I REPORTED in my despatch No. 146 of the 20th October on the uneasiness produced in Spain by the inter-tribal conflicts which for some time have rendered insecure the strip of country in the rear of Melilla. So long as the Roghi maintained his rebellious authority in that region at least a semblance of peace remained. During the last months, however, he has been constantly attacked by a group of neighbouring tribes, which have come under the influence of Mulai Hafid. His position at Zelouan becoming untenable as the result of a general onslaught, which seems to have taken place against that place during the first two or three days of the present month, the Roghi has now taken flight into the interior, leaving the Riff country, it is said, in a state of complete anarchy.

I asked the Foreign Minister yesterday how Spanish interests would be affected by this state of things. Señor Allendesalazar said it was causing him some anxiety. There was now no authority with which General Marina, Governor of Melilla, could confer, and the security of the mines held by Spaniards in the Benibu-fruor region was at the mercy of the tribes who had ousted the General set over the mines by the Roghi. It was impossible as yet to say how matters would turn out, and whether Spain would be called on to take any steps to restore order.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MAURICE DE BUNSEN.

[44193] No. 98.

Note communicated by M. Cambon, December 17, 1908.*

LES Gouvernements Signataires de l'Acte d'Algésiras ont reçu la lettre en date du 4 Quaada, 1326, que Muley Hafid leur a fait parvenir par l'intermédiaire du doyen du Corps Diplomatique à Tanger en réponse à leur communication du 18 Novembre.

Les Gouvernements des pays représentés au Maroc ont accueilli avec satisfaction cette réponse. Ils y ont vu la preuve que les explications qu'ils avaient formulées par leur note en date du 18 Novembre dans l'intérêt même des rapports d'amitié et de confiance qu'ils voulaient entretenir avec l'autorité souveraine de l'Empire Chérifien, répondaient exactement à la pensée de Muley Hafid.

En conséquence, les Puissances Signataires de l'Acte d'Algésiras ont décidé de reconnaître Sa Hautesse Muley Hafid comme Sultan légitime du Maroc et ont chargé le doyen du Corps Diplomatique à Tanger de notifier cette reconnaissance au Représentant de Sa Hautesse dans cette ville.

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* Similar communication made by Spanish Ambassador.

[43307] No. 99.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Lister.

(No. 39.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December* 17, 1908.

RAISULI. Your despatch No. 304.

In the event of Raisuli's appointment as Governor, there will be an occasion of securing repayment from the Makhzen of the money advanced for Kaïd Maclean's ransom, and this opportunity should not be lost.

[44249] No. 100.

Mr. Lister to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received December 19.)

(No. 307.)
Sir, *Tangier, December* 12, 1908.

AFTER transacting some current business with Guebbas yesterday morning, Mr. Irwin told him that he would like to ask him one or two questions quite unofficially, as a matter of personal curiosity, in connection with the *rédaction* of Moulai Hafid's reply to the doyen's note on the subject of his recognition. He would above all like to know what really was in the Sultan's mind when, in the matter of the debts, he spoke of "proceeding against persons who had shared the money among themselves and used it for their own commercial affairs."

Guebbas told him that this alluded to the misappropriation of funds in the loan of 1904, when considerable sums never reached the Treasury, remaining, he said, in the hands of the Tazzis. The Sultan was determined to inquire into this, and was anxious to make certain that he was not to be interfered with by the French. Guebbas said that he personally had advocated an unconditional acceptance of the terms laid down by the Powers, but Moulai Hafid had followed other counsels. He agreed that the phrase used in connection with the French and Spanish claims on account of military expenditure was vague, and would not have been employed had the English, who insisted on greater precision, been concerned; it would, however, he felt sure, satisfy the French.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. LISTER.

[44250] No. 101.

Mr. Lister to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received December 19.)

(No. 308.)
Sir, *Tangier, December* 12, 1908.

I REGRET to say that the fear expressed in my despatch No. 296 of the 26th ultimo has proved well grounded, and Menebhi's enemies have succeeded in making mischief between him and Moulai Hafid in the matter of the kindness and attention shown by him to Moulai Abdel Aziz on his return to Tangier. As I reported in my despatch No. 301 of the 5th instant, Menebhi received a letter from Moulai Hafid approving the arrangements which he had made for the reception of the late Sultan; but since then his enemies, and amongst them, I understand, Cid Guebbas, have poisoned the Sultan's mind, representing to him that, had it not been for Menebhi, "not a dog in the streets would have met Abdel Aziz."

The result of these intrigues has been that Menebhi has received a letter from Raisuli, written by instruction of Moulai Hafid, to the effect that His Majesty was greatly annoyed at the attention paid by Menebhi to Abdel Aziz on his arrival at Tangier, and saying that if, as Menebhi had written, he had acted in the interests of Moulai Hafid and out of friendship for him, he might prove his friendship by inducing Abdel Aziz to go up to Fez.

Menebhi told me that he had absolutely no intention of budging one inch, and that he would write to Moulai Hafid and tell him so. Subsequently he admitted to Mr. Irwin that he had actually done so, and had sent his letter by special courier. He had couched it in pretty strong terms, and had upbraided Moulai Hafid with sending him a message of that nature through such a channel as Raisuli. He could, he said,

hardly believe that His Majesty could have taken a common "mountaineer" (a contemptuous phrase in Arabic) into his confidence in matters connected with his brother. Menebhi added that, notwithstanding the treatment he had received at the hands of Abdel Aziz, he could not see him and his womenkind, all members of the Imperial family, arrive in Tangier with no one to meet them or escort them, and exposed to be jostled by donkey-drivers and porters.

Menebhi assures me that he knows the man he has to deal with, and that a little plain speaking would do him good. He is, he says, moreover, absolutely independent; he wants nothing of the Sultan, and only asks to be left alone.

I only hope that his estimate of Moulai Hafid's character may prove correct, and that the storm will blow over.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. LISTER.

[44251] No. 102.

Mr. Lister to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received December 19.)

(No. 309.)
Sir, *Tangier, December* 12, 1908.

CID MOHAMMED-EL-GUEBBAS informed me to-day that the following appointments have been made by Mulai Hafid, official notification of which, he says, will follow shortly.

Hadj Mohammed-el-Mokri has been appointed to the post of Minister of Finance with the title of Head Amin, by which it has always formerly been known. He is a member of a wealthy and much-respected Fez family, and in intelligence perhaps above the ordinary standard of Moorish officials. Although he has held many important posts, including that of Second Moorish Delegate to the Algeciras Conference, where he was virtually Chief Delegate, and later on that of High Commissioner of the State Bank, in which capacity he was intrusted with Missions to Paris in connection with the raising of funds for the late Government, he is a man of unassuming character, and would appear to be most suitable for this post, which he held for a short time under the late Sultan.

Cid Mohammed-ben-Abdelhadi Zniber has been appointed Governor of Casa Blanca. He was for many years Inspector of Markets at Marrakesh, and originally came to Tangier in connection with the Menebhi claims. Since then he has held various Government posts in connection with the State Bank, and the drawing up of the "Règlements" necessitated by the Act of Algeciras. He was also appointed Minister of Finance by Mulai Hafid, but has now been replaced by El-Mokri as stated above.

Mulai Mohammed-el-Merani has been appointed Viceroy in the Showia district. He is a brother of the actual Viceroy at Fez. Both he and his brother have in the past been almost exclusively employed by the Governments of former Sultans in accompanying their punitive expeditions as chiefs of mehallas, in which position, as being related to the reigning family, by marriage and very high up in the Shereefian hierarchy, their influence with the tribes was considered to be very strong. As is known, however, it proved most feeble in the case of the capture of Kaïd MacLean, when this Shereef failed absolutely to effect his release.

It is not known in what capacity Moulai L'Amin, the retiring Viceroy, will be employed. His recall renders vacant the post of President of the Indemnities Commission, but it is not yet settled whether Zniber will succeed him.

Although Hadj-el-Mokri and Cid Zniber are undoubtedly well fitted for the posts allotted to them, there appears little doubt that their appointments, taken in conjunction with previous appointments of ex-officials of Abd-el-Aziz, will cause great umbrage to the supporters of Mulai Hafid, and should Cid Abdelkrim-ben-Sliman be appointed Minister for Foreign Affairs, with Cid Bukili as his Assistant (an eventuality by no means improbable), it is expected that the powerful Kaïds of the South will not fail to show their displeasure. Mulai Hafid appears to be in a state of considerable anxiety, and he realizes that the very instruments he made use of to gain possession of the throne may prove dangerous to him, should his policy clash with their ideas.

In judging the situation, it must be remembered that the recent revolution was directed more against the officials with whom Abd-el-Aziz had surrounded himself and his general policy than against that Monarch personally, and the return of these

officials to Court cannot fail to give rise to the conclusion in the minds of the people that it is the Sultan who has been changed, and not the system of which they had hoped to rid themselves.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. LISTER.

P.S. *December* 13.—Since writing the above, news has reached Menebhi direct from the Sultan that Ben Sliman died on the fourth day after his arrival at Fez.

R. L.

[44252] No. 103.

Mr. Lister to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received December* 19.)

(No. 310.)

Sir, *Tangier, December* 13, 1908.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the usual summary of events in Morocco for the past week.

I have, &c.
(Signed) REGINALD LISTER.

Inclosure in No. 103.

Summary of Events for Week ending December 12, 1908.

THE most important event to be recorded during the past week is without doubt the flight of the Pretender, El Roghi, from Selouan, where he had taken refuge. It was at first reported that he had been driven out by the Hafidist troops, and that the Kasbah of Selouan had been destroyed by them. The truth, however, appears to be that El Roghi, no doubt hearing of the preparations being made to attack him, left of his own accord, with a small band of followers, after sending his family and movable property to a place of safety. It appears that before leaving he set fire to the Kasbah, which doubtless gave rise to the rumour that he had been defeated by the Hafidist force. Nothing is yet known as to whether he has definitely abandoned his pretensions to the Throne, or whether he has simply taken refuge in a safer district, where he may continue to intrigue against the present Sultan.

The arrival of Mulai Mohammed at Fez has been the signal for some barbarous treatment being meted out to two important personages, who had been convicted of secretly corresponding with him. It appears that, in order to force a confession from them, they were subjected to a form of cruelty known as the torture of the salt. This consists in lacerating a person's hands and wrists, and then filling the cuts with a strong kind of salt. It is to be hoped that this is not a prelude to further cruelties on the part of the authorities, but it is unfortunately true that successive Sultans have felt it necessary at the commencement of their reigns to enforce respect for their rule by instilling terror into all those who might dare to intrigue against them.

The situation in the south remains unchanged, the attitude of the important Kaïds being still uncertain. There is, however, no doubt that considerable dissatisfaction has been caused amongst those who were the earliest supporters of Mulai Hafid by the appointment of so many ex-Ministers of Abd-el-Aziz to important posts. In this connection a report has just reached Tangier that Ben Sliman, whose name had been freely mentioned as successor to Cid Aissa in the post of Foreign Minister, died suddenly at Fez a few days ago. It is somewhat significant that he is reported to have incurred the displeasure of Mulai Hafid shortly before his death.

The return of Abd-el-Aziz to Tangier, which took place on the 10th instant, passed off without incident of any kind. He has now taken up his residence in the house rented for him on the mountain.

Mulai Hafid's reply to his Proclamation at Casa Blanca was received there on the 9th instant, and was read in the Mosque before a vast gathering. The tone of this communication was somewhat colourless, but a rebuke was administered to the people of Casa Blanca for having so long delayed the Proclamation. At the same time, Mulai Hafid stated that he would make allowances "for the special position in which they were placed."

F. R.

[44414] No. 104.

Lord Acton to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received December* 21.)

(No. 253.)

Sir, *The Hague, December* 10, 1908.

IN my despatch No. 206 of the 12th December of last year, I had the honour to transmit translation of a Bill then before the States-General relative to offences punishable under the Act of Algeciras.

The said Bill has now become law, subject to slight textual alterations in Articles 2 and 4, as will be seen from the translation which I have the honour to inclose.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ACTON.

Inclosure in No. 104.

(Translation.)

"Staatsblad" of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

(*No.* 337.)—*Law of November* 9, 1908, *containing Provisions for the Application of the General Act of Algeciras and of other Ordinances in Morocco.*

WE, Wilhelmina, by the grace of God Queen of the Netherlands, Princess of Orange-Nassau, &c.

To all who shall see this or hear it read, greeting! Know:

Whereas we have taken into consideration that it is desirable to give some prescriptions for the application of the General Act of Algeciras and of other Ordinances in Morocco;

Therefore, we, having heard the Council of State, and with the common deliberation of the States-General, have approved and understood, as we do hereby approve and understand:—

ARTICLE 1.

The first and third chapters of the Law of the 25th July, 1871, regulating the competency of Consular officers to draw up civil deeds, and regulating Consular jurisdiction, amended in the last instance by the Law of the 7th June, 1905, and the provisions of the Netherland Penal Law, shall apply, so far as such application is possible, to acts committed by persons subject to Netherland jurisdiction, and rendered punishable under Article 7 of this Law, under the General Act of Algeciras or under Ordinances which have been or shall be made in virtue of that Act, as also under Ordinances which have been or shall be made for Morocco in other valid manner in respect of those persons.

ARTICLE 2.

The punishable acts mentioned in the preceding Article shall be regarded as misdemeanours.

ARTICLE 3.

The imprisonment to which the offender mentioned in Article 1 can be sentenced shall be regarded as punishment of detention.

ARTICLE 4.

In case of condemnation on account of only one of the acts mentioned in Article 1, detention and monetary fine shall not be imposed together.

ARTICLE 5.

Article 26 of the Law mentioned in Article 1 shall not obtain in regard to the punishable acts mentioned in Article 1, so far as the General Act of Algeciras or the Ordinances themselves regulate the penalty.

ARTICLE 6.

In deviation from the provisions of Article 43 of the Law mentioned in Article 1, the sentences in respect of punishable acts mentioned in Article 1, pronounced by the Consular Court, shall be open to appeal if the punishment imposed is heavier than six days' detention or a fine of 60 florins.

The act of taking cognizance thereof appertains to the Court of Justice at Amsterdam.

ARTICLE 7.

Contravention, by persons subject to Netherland jurisdiction, of Article 27 of the General Act of Algeciras shall be punished with the penalty named in Article 20 of that Act.

ARTICLE 8.

The competent Judge, mentioned in Article 119 of the General Act of Algeciras, shall be the Consular Court at Tangier in respect of persons subject to Netherland jurisdiction.

ARTICLE 9.

This Law shall enter into operation on the thirtieth day after that of its announcement.

Charge and command that this shall be inserted in the "Staatsblad," and that all Ministerial Departments, authorities, Boards, and officials whom it concerns shall see to the accurate execution thereof.

Given at the Palace, Het Loo, the 9th November, 1908.

(Signed) WILHELMINA.

R. DE MAREES VAN SWINDEREN,
The Minister for Foreign Affairs.

NELISSEN,
The Minister of Justice.

Issued the 5th December, 1908.

NELISSEN,
The Minister of Justice.

[44496] No. 105.

Sir M. de Bunsen to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received December 21.)

(No. 184. Confidential.)

Sir, *Madrid, December 17, 1908.*

THE French Ambassador informs me that the text of the note to the Maghzen, expressing recognition by the Powers of Mulai Hafid as Sultan, was concerted between himself and the Spanish Foreign Minister a few days ago, and will probably be submitted to-day by the French and Spanish Representatives at the various capitals for approval by the Governments concerned. M. Révoil states that in drafting the note he was careful to employ no expressions which did not conform closely to the language already accepted at Berlin, and which was embodied in the note of the 18th November, since accepted by the new Sultan as defining with sufficient accuracy the attitude he is prepared to adopt towards the Powers.

His Excellency does not anticipate that any Government will raise objections to the proposed text, or that any considerable delay can now occur before Mulai Hafid is definitely recognized. He would feel better satisfied with this result if Mulai Hafid had not already gained a character which promises anything but well for the future. M. Révoil hears that imprisonment and torture are being unsparingly applied at Fez to adherents of the old régime. It would not greatly surprise him to learn that the death of the ex-Minister Ben Sliman was caused by foul play. All the reports he has received depict the new Sultan as harsh and cruel, contrasting very unpleasantly with his weak but well-meaning predecessor. M. Révoil has hopes that some man of strong character may emerge who will keep Mulai Hafid under proper restraint. El Menebhi, he thinks, might have played this part, with Ben Sliman to assist him. Whether single-handed he is equal to such a task the Ambassador is inclined to doubt.

M. Révoil has had a conversation with Señor Allendesalazar on recent events in the Riff country. He is always very sensitive to Spanish movements in that region. The flight of the Roghi, he feared, might lead to an advance of Spanish troops from Melilla. The pretext would be the protection of Spanish property in the mining district. Once such a movement began it would be difficult to check it. M. Révoil was glad, therefore, to receive from the Minister for Foreign Affairs an assurance that nothing of the kind is in contemplation, at least for the present.

Señor Allendesalazar had derived some comfort from the visits paid a few days ago by several neighbouring tribal chiefs to General Marina at Melilla. This seemed to portend a friendly attitude on the part of the tribes. But no doubt the situation outside the walls of Melilla was greatly disturbed, and the Spanish Government intended, he said, to insist on the new Sultan fulfilling his Treaty obligation to keep order there as soon as circumstances permit.

M. Révoil is satisfied with these declarations for the present. He thought it as well, however, to remind the Minister of the clause in the Secret Treaty of October 1904, which requires Spain to secure the concurrence of France before taking any important step in the northern portion of Morocco. Señor Allendesalazar said the Spanish Government had no desire to conceal its intentions from the French Government, with which it claimed to be loyally co-operating in all matters relating to that country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MAURICE DE BUNSEN.

[44486] No. 106.

Sir F. Bertie to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received December 21.)

(No. 518.)

Sir, *Paris, December 20, 1908.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith an extract from the "Matin" of to-day's date,* containing a statement made by M. Pichon in reply to an inquiry by a representative of that paper as to the views held by the French Government in regard to a demand put forward by the "Cologne Gazette" and the "Frankfort Gazette" that the frontier between Algeria and Morocco in the Sahara should be delimited.

M. Pichon stated that the French Government had not been called on to consider the question of delimitation, which concerned France and Morocco alone, by virtue of the Agreements of 1901 and 1902 and the Act of Algeciras. The intentions of the Government in regard to the frontier districts were, he said, explained in the instructions issued to General Lyautey, and were clearly indicated in the last two Yellow Books on Moroccan affairs.

In commenting on the demands of the German newspapers in question, the "Temps" states that, in view of the internal conditions of Morocco, a delimitation of the frontier in the Sahara would be an absurdity, since a fixed boundary would only protect Morocco and would leave Algeria exposed to attack. It was for this reason that that part of the frontier was not delimited in 1845, and the same reason holds good at the present day, as the situation has not changed.

The "Temps" says, however, that in any case France need offer no explanations for her attitude in the matter, since it is a question in which Germany has no right to intervene, and it proceeds to quote the texts of the Treaty of Lalla Marnia of 1845, of the Franco-German Agreements of the 8th July and the 28th September, 1905, and of the Algeciras Act in order to show that it has always been recognized that questions affecting the frontier concern France and Morocco alone.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS BERTIE.

[44193] No. 107.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Lister.

(No. 200.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, December 21, 1908.*

WITH reference to previous correspondence, I transmit to you herewith copy of the note,† as communicated to me by the French and Spanish Embassies on the 17th

* Not printed.

† No. 98.

instant, which it is proposed to address to Mulai Hafid in reply to His Highness' note of the 29th ultimo, through the dean of the Diplomatic Body at Tangier.

You are authorized to express the concurrence of His Majesty's Government in the terms of this communication by which the Powers Signatories of the Algeciras Act propose to notify Mulai Hafid that they now recognize him as Sultan of Morocco.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. GREY.

[44770] No. 108.

Sir M. de Bunsen to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received December* 23.)

(No. 185. Confidential.)
Sir, *Madrid, December* 18, 1908.

MR. MACPHERSON, of Cadiz, one of the partners of the Spanish Company interested in the Beni-bu-Fruor mines behind Melilla, gave me some account to-day of the affairs of the Company.

It consists of four persons, namely, himself; the Marquis of Comillas, the well-known Barcelona shipowner; Señor Romanones, the wealthy and unscrupulous ex-Minister of the Liberal party; and a cattle merchant of Madrid, who was the first to discover the mines, in the course of one of his expeditions to Melilla in connection with his trade. The capital is 6,000,000 pesetas (about 214,000*l*., at 28 pesetas to the *l*.). Out of this sum a considerable subvention has already been paid to the Roghi, and more was due to him at regular intervals, in return for the Concession. Now that the Roghi has fled, the outstanding instalments will be payable to the person who shall succeed in establishing his authority over the Riff country. Large sums have also been spent on the railway from the mines to Melilla, passing through Nador. Its length is 33 kilom., and though a gap of 12 kilom. between the mines and Nador, and another of 3 kilom. between Nador and Melilla, besides a few other gaps, remain to be filled in, the rails and other plant are all lying ready at Melilla, and the railway could be completed in three or four months. The rails were bought cheap in Russia. The engines will be bought wherever they can be secured most cheaply and expeditiously. Apparently, the British manufacturers who had been applied to were unable to turn them out quickly enough. The work on the mines had consisted so far in storing a certain amount of iron ore for export as soon as the line is completed and in blasting rock for the purposes of the line. Mr. Macpherson is enthusiastic over the wealth of the deposits of mineral, in which he states that the whole region abounds. Iron, lead, and iron pyrites are found in profusion, all of the best quality. He has recently been in England, hoping to induce English capitalists to take a share in the enterprise. Messrs. William Baird, of Glasgow, would like to join, but hesitate owing to the doubtful future of the Riff country, which is now in an anarchical condition. Meanwhile, no mineral has yet been exported.

I asked Mr. Macpherson if he was satisfied with the Company's title to the mine. He said he thought it would prove to be a good one. Spain had always acted up to the principle of dealing with the *de facto* authority behind the Presidios. The Roghi was for a long time the *de facto* authority. His engagements would have to be taken over by his successor. The successor might turn out to be Mulai Hafid, but Mr. Macpherson did not think the new Sultan would be more successful in establishing his power there than his predecessors had been.

The French have also a mine (lead) not far from the Spanish claim. Their railway, a Décauville, is also in course of construction. Its length is between 16 and 20 kilom. It meets the English railway at Nador, about half-way from the mines to Melilla, and runs thence to a point on the island sea called the Mar Chica. The intention is to take it eventually on to Melilla, but Spain has hitherto objected to this. No deep-water loading place is to be had short of Melilla, and lighters would have to be employed. Indeed, even the Spanish Company will have to rely on lighters till the Melilla port works, which are proceeding too slowly, are completed.

Mr. Macpherson asked me what support I thought the British Government would feel disposed to give to the participation of British capital in the Spanish enterprise. I

said that they would probably consider that questions regarding Concessions in Morocco must be decided according to the General Act of Algeciras, and would advise intending investors to bear this in mind.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MAURICE DE BUNSEN.

[45141] No. 109.

Mr. Lister to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received December* 28.)

(No. 312.)
Sir, *Tangier, December* 20, 1908.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram No. 39 of the 17th instant instructing me, should Raisuli be appointed Governor of the Fahz, to lose no time in applying for the repayment of the 20,000*l*. advanced by His Majesty's Government for the ransom of Kaïd Maclean.

During the last ten days nothing more has been heard of the appointment, but the other day a report reached me to the effect that he was to be given the post of Governor of Tetuan. I mentioned the report to Menebhi and he said that it was not impossible as Raisuli certainly had paid down large sums of money and would expect to be given something. He moreover had always coveted the post. The Fahz he believed to be out of the question owing to the violent opposition that the appointment had encountered. Mr. Irwin pointed out to Menebhi that the appointment would be most dangerous; that Raisuli, were he Governor of Tetuan and supported by the Hill tribes, would be all-powerful in that part of the country and practically independent of the Sultan. I understand that Menebhi thinks of writing in this sense to Fez. In any case I shall watch events very closely, and seize the first favourable opportunity of putting forward the claim for 20,000*l*.

I have, &c.
(Signed) REGINALD LISTER.

[45063] No. 110.

Count de Salis to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received December* 28.)

(No. 549.)
Sir, *Berlin, December* 25, 1908.

AN article on Morocco was recently published in the "Kölnische Zeitung," in which it was suggested that the time had now come for definitely establishing the frontier between that country and Algeria. It was hinted that a matter of that character, affecting as it did the integrity of Moroccan territory, could hardly be settled without the intervention of the Powers who were Signatories of the Act of Algeciras.

In a reply signed by M. André Tardieu the "Temps" comments rather bitterly on this idea, the origin of which it attributes to the German Government, an assumption which in the circumstances is not altogether unreasonable, and again runs through the list of the unfriendly acts towards France of which it accuses the German Government. Rejoinders have been published in the Berlin papers, but the controversy now seems to have been stopped through the intervention of the Press Bureau of the Foreign Office, who have made a categorical statement to M. Roels, the correspondent of the "Temps," and to Mr. O'Neill, the correspondent of the "Times," that the German authorities have nothing to do with the authorship of the articles. The French Chargé d'Affaires informed me that, in course of conversation and perhaps in less definite terms, Herr von Schoen had disclaimed any wish on the part of his Government to raise the question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. DE SALIS.

[45539] No. 111.

Mr. Lister to Sir Edward Grey.—(*Received December* 30.)

(No. 78.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, December* 30, 1908.

HARRIS left last Sunday for Paris in connection with the International Mining Syndicate. Before leaving he told me that he had reason to believe that, while at Rabat, Abd-el-Aziz had been induced by the French to sign various secret Treaties. I have so far no official confirmation of his information. He professed ignorance as to the effect and scope of these documents, but appeared to think they would prove an unpleasant surprise for Mulai Hafid.